THE TIMES 35P

No. 65,855

FRIDAY APRIL 4 1997

THE PAXMAN PROBLEM
PAGE 20

TIMES SPORT – IN ON THE ACTION

Results and entry details on PAGE 43

KICKING AND SCREAMING AT FEVER PITCH
Lynne Truss
PAGE 46

FROM BIG TOP TO BIG TIME
Valerie Grove meets Rupert Graves
PAGE 19

Labour fails to give parliamentary time for vote on hunting

"Hi, we're canvassing on behalf of the Conservative Party"

By Philip Webster and Michael Horsnell

THE Labour Party has backed away from its long-standing commitment to give parliamentary time to legislation banning fox-hunting.

A compromise reached by party leaders means one of the countryside's oldest pursuits will be able to continue for some time to come. And the early years of a Blair government *would not* get bogged down with a sensitive Bill that could divide the party and take up time needed for other measures.

The manifesto published yesterday promises a free vote but, in a deliberate shift pushed through by senior Shadow Cabinet members, gives no promise on finding parliamentary time. The shift will infuriate animal rights activists but please *rural* communities.

Last night the League Against Cruel Sports *warned* Labour that, with public feelings against animal cruelty running high, it would be a "bad political *move*" if the party backed away from its commitment to ban hunting with hounds. Pro-hunting spokesmen welcomed the *absence of a specific commitment* to make parliamentary time available for legislation, but said the threat to their sport remained.

Past policy documents have committed Labour both to allowing a free vote on hunting with hounds and to giving time for a private member's Bill to push it through. Controversial backbench Bills cannot get through Parliament without the support of the Government of the day. Only limited time is allotted *to them and they* are always vulnerable to delaying tactics.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, Lord Irvine of Lairg, Shadow Lord Chancellor, and Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary and Labour's policy chief, are understood to be the key figures behind the manifesto wording.

Lord Irvine, a close friend of Tony Blair, was charged by the Labour leader with keeping out commitments that could take up too much of a Labour Government's time in its busy early years. Senior Shadow Cabinet figures said that they had no desire to embroil Labour in a classic town-versus-country argument. Other sources said there were no votes to be gained in banning *hunting, but that rural votes could* be lost if one were imposed.

The wording went through last week's Shadow Cabinet and national executive manifesto meeting, which agreed the manifesto, without comment. "No one batted an eyelid," an informed source said.

Kevin Saunders, spokesman for *the League Against Cruel Sports*, said: "If the Labour Party is going soft on this issue the public will be extremely disappointed. It would be a very bad political move if the Labour Party were to start backing off from a commitment they have already made."

Peter Stevenson, political and legal director of Compassion in World Farming, said: "I should love *to see Labour bring in a ban on* hunting with a government Bill and not leave it to a free vote. I am immensely disappointed at the vagueness in the manifesto."

But Richard Moore, election team leader of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, said: "We didn't expect a government-sponsored Bill. *It's been policy to allow a free vote.* We will win that. We see no weakening in Labour's position or resolve."

Janet George, of the British Field Sports Society, said: "The Labour Party would have been crazy to put a commitment on paper to provide time for legislation given the competition to find time for other more important business if they get *elected. But they are still planning* to hold a free vote on whether hunting should be banned, and there could still be time for a private member's Bill to get through both houses of Parliament."

John Fretwell, chairman of the recently launched Union of Country Sports Workers, said: "The commit*ment to hold a free vote is still there*, and that can only increase hostility towards country sports and jeopardise the jobs of thousands of people who depend on them for their livelihood."

Trust me, says Blair as he plays it safe

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR set his sights on *two terms of office yesterday* as he offered Britain a fresh start and invited the country to judge his performance in government severely.

Labour would "blow its place in history" if it betrayed the trust of the British people at the general election and afterwards, he said.

Unveiling a deliberately *cautious manifesto*, which "made a virtue of not promising the earth", Mr Blair suggested that he was pinning his hopes on a lengthy period in Downing Street.

"Trust is the single most important commodity in this election. I can almost reach out and feel the sentiment among the public," he said. "They want a *new beginning* in politics. They want to know *they can trust the person* who offers them that. We are saying 'These are substantial commitments. They may not revolutionise your life overnight but they can make Britain better.' Hold us to them. If we deliver them we can come back to the election after next and say *trust us* again because we kept our *promises*."

Mr Blair launched his document as two polls showed that his party was maintaining its huge lead. A Harris poll for *The Independent* gives Labour 52 per cent, the Tories 28 and the *Liberal Democrats 14*. A Gallup survey for *The Daily Telegraph* also gives Labour 52 per cent, but has the Tories on 31 and the Liberal Democrats on 11.

But the Labour leader continued to insist that he was not complacent, although he accepted that this was a make-or-break election for his party. "*This is a historic opportunity* for the Labour Party to become a *modern* party of progress and justice. If we blow this opportunity, we blow our place in history."

But Mr Blair's pledge to stick to the Government's spending figures and not raise personal taxes was soon undermined when Gordon Brown admitted there was a *£1.5 billion hole in the expendi*ture plans. The Shadow Chancellor even said that Labour might have to go ahead with the £500 million privatisation of the National Air Traffic System to help to fill the gap. *His admission delighted the* Tories, who claimed to have *scored a direct* hit with their claims that Labour had a black hole in its finances.

The Labour manifesto promised that there would be no increases in the basic or top rate of tax, and long-term aim remained a 10p starting rate.

It also promised a national *minimum* wage, *referendums* on a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly, a windfall tax on privatised utilities to get 250,00 youngsters into work, extra spending on education to cut class sizes, year-on-year increases in health spending, a referendum on single currency *in the event of a Labour* government deciding to go in, a reduction *in VAT* on fuel to 5 per cent, abolition of the voting rights of hereditary peers, and faster justice for young offenders.

John Major described the manifesto as "more a con-trick than a contract", while Michael Heseltine said Labour's *document was a contract with* the trade unions. Mr Major, *campaigning in Scotland*, also attacked Mr Blair's devolution plans, claiming that "in a handful of sentences he promises to start the break up of the United Kingdom".

The Liberal Democrats described the manifesto as the most complacent from any *non-Conservative party in re*cent times and said: "On issue after issue Labour offer nothing to solve the grave problems which we face."

Launching the document earlier, Mr Blair had said: "This election is about trust. The relationship between gov*ernment and people was shat*tered when the Conservatives won the 1992 general election on a series of promises, particularly on tax, and then systematically broke them. For that reason, we make a virtue of the fact that our manifesto does not promise the earth.

"*It does not say it can do* everything. There are no magic wands or instant solutions. I defy anyone to say that this is anything other than a radical programme, but it is in the radical centre — modern, forward-looking and utterly *in* tune with the times and instincts of today's *Britain*."

ELECTION 97

> *Under the banner of 'honesty in politics,' Blair is able to make a virtue of paucity*
>
> *Matthew Parris, page 7*

> The problem is not ends. It is means. Labour's figures do not add up
>
> *Peter Riddell, page 10*

Election reports........7-15
Matthew Parris........20
Tessa Blackstone........20
Leading article........21

Labour Manifesto in full, Section Two

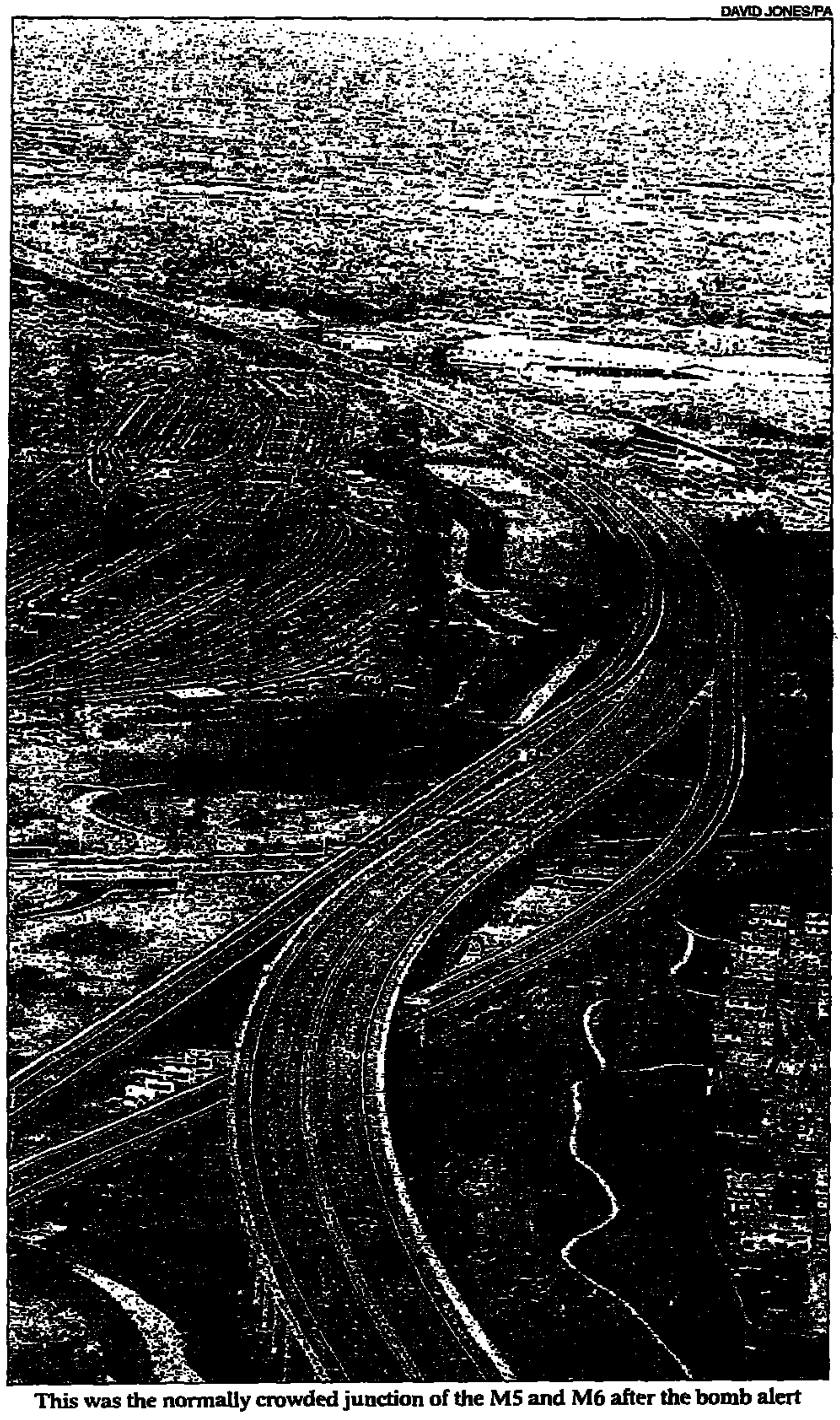
MANIFESTO: THE MAIN POINTS

☐ No rise in basic or top rate of income *tax. Long term aim* of 10p starting rate.
☐ Windfall tax on *privatised* utilities, to put 250,000 under-25s into work.
☐ National minimum wage, level to be *decided*.
☐ Reduction in class sizes for five *to seven-year-olds*. Phasing out of Assisted Places Scheme. "*Hit squads*" *to* target failing education authorities. *No return to 11-plus*, but no abolition of grammar schools.
☐ Cut in VAT on fuel to 5 per cent.
☐ End to NHS internal *market*. £100 *million* to treat more patients. Annual above-inflation increase in spending.
☐ Trade Union recognition where majority of "relevant" workforce support it.
☐ Referendums on Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly
☐ Referendum on single currency.
☐ Abolition of voting rights for hereditary peers.
☐ A Royal Commission to report on long-term care of the elderly
☐ Speeding up sentencing for persistent young offenders.
☐ Free vote on a total ban on handguns.

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Frs 100; Canada $3.50; Canaries Pts 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 16.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 500; Netherlands Fl 5.50; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 60; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 27.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 19.50; Switzerland S Frs 5.00; Tunisia Din 2.200; USA $3.50.

The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

DAVID JONES/PA



This was the normally crowded junction of the M5 and M6 after the bomb alert

Bomb chaos on motorways

By Stewart Tendler, Danny McGrory and Kevin Eason

TWO bombs were found under the M6 near Birmingham yesterday as the IRA brought chaos to the busiest *section of road in Europe*.

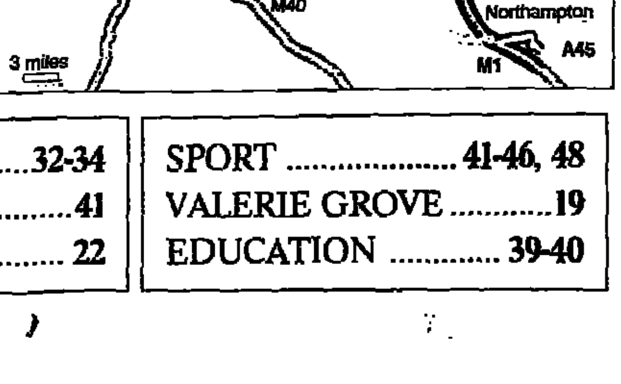
The bombs were discovered *near junction nine* after a coded warning that devices had been left between Perry Barr and Walsall. One detonator had been fired, but the bomb had failed to explode. The second was disarmed.

Thirty miles of the M1 and the M6 and a stretch of the M5 were closed, leaving nearly 200,000 cars and 60,000 lorries stranded for hours. Hundreds more people were moved out of their homes, and motoring organisations estimated that the closures cost £20 million.

Police believe that the chaos was part of a new IRA strategy to disrupt transport after *last* week's attack on a Manchester *rail junction*.

The M6 bombs were found *after an Irish caller told two* Walsall hotels that a bomb would explode under the motorway by about 9am. As *police scoured the elevated* section of the motorway, two *small explosions* were heard, but no one could trace the source. Then yesterday afternoon West Midlands Police discovered a bomb attached to the top of a 60ft support column near Bescot. Two controlled explosions destroyed the device. The second bomb *was found 100 yards away*.

In Northamptonshire, the M1 was closed between junctions 16 and 19 for eight hours after a warning of a device under a road bridge. Police found a metal box near the Eurotunnel freight terminal at Crick. It was harmless.



Road rage 'is middle class crime'

By Jeremy Laurance

ROAD rage is a middle class crime, a professor of psychology *said last night. Professor* John Groeger, of the University of Surrey, said incidents in which drivers attacked each other over minor traffic misdemeanours were more likely to involve the middle classes than any other violent crime.

Research presented to the Edinburgh International Science Festival *examined* reports of 100 incidents of road rage from 1993, and found they were unlike common crimes of violence. Perpetrators and victims tended to be older than in other crimes and to span the social classes and both sexes.

Describing himself as initially a sceptic about road rage, Professor Groeger said the differences had convinced him it was a unique phenomenon. The first reports of incidents appeared in 1993 and had grown rapidly.

"The key question is whether the rage is confined to the road or whether the people involved are *just* genuinely angry. I am coming to the view that this is something different from other forms of violence." Road rage incidents

Continued on page 2, col 6

IN BRIEF

Kohl is to run for fifth term

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has announced that he intends to stand for re-election after months of speculation that he was suffering *from failing health and losing* control over the spiralling economic problems that have dogged him for the past year.

He made the announcement during an interview to mark his sixty-seventh birthday. The election will be held *at the end of next year*Page 17

BCCI fraud case man found guilty

A shipping tycoon who defrauded the Bank of Credit and Commerce International of £750 million was yesterday convicted of fraud and false *accounting, in the biggest case* of its kind to come before a British court.

Abbas Gokal, 61, former chairman of the Gulf Group, was convicted at the Old Bailey at the conclusion of a seven-month trial, which has cost the taxpayer £10 *million*........*Page 3*

Teachers' threat

Teachers in Bradford may take industrial action after having to take back boys caught with an air pistol........Page 2

CASH IN A FLASH

ABBEYLOAN. THE FAST AFFORDABLE PERSONAL LOAN.

Speed is of the essence, especially if you've already seen something you really want to buy. Abbey National will give you a fast decision on amounts from £500 to £15,000 and our experience will mean you needn't worry about borrowing more than you can afford. All you need to do is pick up the phone and call:

0345 54 55 56
(quoting ref: 7250)

ABBEY NATIONAL® DIRECT

L36

Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm and Saturday 8am to 4pm. To assist us in improving our service we may record or monitor calls. Loans and pricing are subject to status and not available to persons under 18 years of age. Written quotations are available *on request. Please do not enter into a loan agreement unless you can afford the* repayments. Abbey National reserves the right to refuse an application for a loan for certain purposes. Abbey National, Abbey National Direct and the Umbrella Couple symbol are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.

TV & RADIO........46, 47
WEATHER........24
CROSSWORDS........24, 48
LETTERS........21
OBITUARIES........23
MATTHEW PARRIS........20
ARTS........32-34
CHESS & BRIDGE........41
COURT & SOCIAL........22
SPORT........41-46, 48
VALERIE GROVE........19
EDUCATION........39-40

Teachers may strike over pupils caught with gun

By David Charter
and Paul Wilkinson

TEACHERS were yesterday considering industrial action after their school was ordered to take back two boys caught with an air pistol and ammunition. The 14-year-olds were expelled from Yorkshire Martyrs Collegiate Roman Catholic School, Bradford, after one brought the Luger-style gun to school to sell to the other.

But the school was this week ordered to re-admit them next term after their parents appealed to an independent appeal panel. John Clarke, the head teacher, said the decision threatened the running of the school and could undermine its reputation for good discipline.

Last night in a statement issued on behalf of Mr Clarke and Canon Peter Maguire, the chairman of the governors, by the Bradford Catholic diocesan press office, the decision was soundly condemned. "A decision was reached on good grounds to expel the pupils. Other people have undertaken to reverse that decision. If the boys are to be accepted back, the body that reversed the governor's decision has got to take responisbility for what may happen subsequently."

A teacher caught the boys trying to settle on a price for the air pistol on January 17. They were expelled on January 21 and the police informed. They described the gun as a "magazine fed air weapon looking like a replica 9mm pistol".

Two-thirds of Mr Clarke's staff belong to the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, known for its readiness to act against unruly pupils. Its strike threat brought the chaos at the Ridings School, Halifax, to the Government's attention and its members walked out of Manton Junior School, Worksop, for ten days last autumn, in protest at the return of a disruptive ten-year-old.

Nigel de Gruchy, Nasuwt general secretary, said: "We have to give a clear message that this kind of act is totally unacceptable. We must say to these pupils 'Sorry you must go'.

"If we do not deal with this in a serious way, within a year or two we shall have American style searches to make sure no youngster is bringing a gun into schools."

Mr Clarke said: "Parents come to this school because they know we have strong discipline. This does make it difficult to manage the school."

Mr Clarke said the appeal panel would have to take the consequences of any violent act if the boys did indeed return. But he added: "I acept that at the moment the independent appeals panel has said they should return to the school. What actualy happens remains to be seen." Brian Garvey, a West Yorkshire member of the union's national executive, said: "At this stage, the members are just asking for advice. But as far as I am concerned, in today's situation with regard to weapons and school security, anybody who takes a gun into school is a danger." He the union would try to resolve the situation by discussion first.

Details of the case emerged as the NASUWT annual conference called for the abolition of the independent appeals panels. Mr Garvey added: "These appeals panels are totally useless for the case of schools trying to improve the education of pupils within them. They are a damn nuisance and are harming the opinions of those who know best."

Mr de Gruchy added: "If school governors are capable of firing teachers, they ought to be capable of firing children as well. The credibility of a governing body is destroyed when their decisions are overturned in this way.

"Unfortunately I don't detect any proposal in any manifesto to abolish these panels so I think these problems will just continue."

Teachers call for governors to sit tests

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

TEACHERS called yesterday for government tests for 340,000 state school governors to ensure they are up to the job. Too many were self-important, patronising and ignorant of school life, the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers' annual conference was told.

Despite warnings that tests would deter parents from volunteering, the union agreed to press the Department for Education for mandatory training and assessment of governors. Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary, said teachers wanted governors to prove their competence in a range of skills before qualifying. "They should show they understand employment law, education law and have a pretty sound knowledge of finance," he said.

Training to run schools with turnovers of £1 million or more often only lasted a day or two, the conference in Bournemouth was told. Paul Whittaker, a teacher from Devon, told the conference: "Frequently individual governors assume powers through, perhaps, a distorted image of their own self-importance."

Tony Hardman, a head from Liverpool, said that the Audit Commission had expressed concern about their probity, and the examples it had found suggested that "governors sometimes give work to family and friends without going through the tendering process".

Gerald Bunting, disabled after attack by Rita Wilding

Rita Wilding with her son and her husband, whose death she blamed on Mr Bunting

Disruptive boy's mother guilty of hate campaign

A MOTHER of five was convicted yesterday of waging a hate campaign against a former council official who had made remarks about her family on television.

Rita Wilding, 35, was remanded in custody for three weeks for psychiatric and presentencing reports. A jury at Nottingham Crown Court took 20 minutes to find her guilty of making threats to kill Gerald Bunting and making threats to destroy his bungalow.

Last year teachers threatened to go on strike because of her son, Richard, 14. Staff at his comprehensive school claimed that he was impossible to teach because of his disruptive behaviour.

Mr Bunting told the court that he and his wife had received 72 telephone calls in a month from the Wilding family, threatening to kill them and burn down their home in Carlton Hill, Nottingham. He told the court that he ran for his life after one of the Wilding boys sprayed him with what he thought was petrol from a plastic bottle. In fact it was lemonade, but he thought that another of the sons was about to set him alight with a match.

Mr Bunting, who attended court using crutches, said he was 80 per cent disabled after being pushed down a flight of stairs by Wilding four years ago. She was convicted of assaulting him.

Wilding, of Bilborough, Nottingham, said she and her sons went to Mr Bunting's home in Carlton Hill, Nottingham, to protest about comments he made about the family on a television programme about violent women. She said her husband Phillip, 57, had suffered a heart attack while watching the programme. Two days later he had another and died. Mr Bunting said: "She blamed me for her husband's death."

Boy murderer could be freed in 5½ years

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

A BOY who helped his teenage brother and father to murder his mother could be freed from jail in 5½ years, after a recommendation by the Lord Chief Justice.

John Howells, 16, and his brother, Glen, 17, were sentenced to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure for killing their mother with a hammer at their home in Huddersfield, west Yorkshire. Yesterday it was disclosed that Lord Bingham of Cornhill had recommended to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, that John Howells serve seven years and Glen Howells ten years. Both have already spent 18 months in custody.

The recommendation comes after advice from the trial judge on the minimum sentence to be served by both youths for "retribution and deterrence". The Home Secretary can either confirm the recommendation or impose his own term.

David Howells, 48, who was also convicted of murder, is understood not to have been informed of the minimum sentence he must serve. The three were found guilty of murdering Evelyn Howells at their home in August 1995.

Last night Gordon Perfitt, John Howells's solicitor, said: "It's slightly less than we anticipated. John was a little surprised, but at least it removes all the uncertainty."

Bank sacks three over e-mail porn

By Robert Miller
and Eric Reguly

NATWEST Markets, the bank's troubled securities arm that recently uncovered a £90 million black hole in its derivatives department, has sacked three employees and disciplined 12 others for distributing pornography on the electronic mailing system.

NatWest Markets disciplined the staff concerned last Thursday after being tipped off by Mercury Communications. A NatWest spokeswoman confirmed last night that three "agency" staff had been sacked for bringing in computer files of "soft" and "hard" pornography and downloading it on to the NatWest internal e-mail system. The material was then distributed internally and sent to other banks and trading houses in the City.

A spokeswoman for Mercury Communications, which supplies corporate Internet services, confirmed the company's role in the investigation, which began after Mercury noticed "an unusual amount" of electronic mail generated by the NatWest offices.

Road rage

Continued from page 1

typically involved drivers in their mid-thirties, in contrast to perpetrators of most social violence, who were generally young men aged 18 to 23.

Those involved were usually strangers, in contrast to most crimes of violence, which involved people who knew each other.

Many incidents involved people not normally associated with violence. In one, a Jewish elder caught in a minor collision at traffic lights in North London assaulted a Buddhist monk in the other car. In another, a vicar's wife assaulted a woman beautician, who she said "cut her up" on an urban road in northern England.

Two doctors, involved in separate incidents, produced guns to press their points. A bodyguard of the Queen assaulted a driver, and other incidents have involved company directors, police and other professionals.

Professor Groeger, who presented his findings in Edinburgh last night, said: "This is something separate from normal social violence." Road rage was the violent crime most likely to involve the middle classes because they were rarely involved in other violence. They were also more likely to have jobs that involved driving high mileages.

NEWS IN BRIEF

30,000 rise expected in prison population

The prison population in England and Wales is to rise by 30,000, requiring a multimillion-pound programme to build at least 30 jails, according to government figures released yesterday. The number of offenders in jail is estimated to rise by 19,200 in the next nine years, reaching almost 75,000 by 2005, and a further 11,000 are expected to be jailed by 2011 as a result of the Government's new sentencing regime, although this prediction could already be out of date. The Home Office study shows the number of young offenders sentenced is estimated to rise by more than half, from 6,500 to 9,900, between 1995-2005, sentenced male adults by 36 per cent (from 34,800 to 47,500) and the number of women in jail from 2,300 to 3,500.

Epilepsy drug warning

A drug for the treatment of epilepsy can be ten times more dangerous to children than its manufacturers first believed. Glaxo Wellcome has issued a warning pointing out that new research in America suggests that the recognised allergic side-effects of Lamictal can be serious and, in rare cases, fatal. The research shows that, among children under 12, between one in 300 and one in 100 can suffer a serious allegic reaction. The drug has been used by adults for a decade, but has been licensed for children for only two years.

Aid for space mission

The space mission destroyed by the failure of the Ariane 5 launcher last June is to rise again, courtesy of a cheaper Russian rocket. The European Space Agency has agreed to support the Cluster mission, which involves four satellites designed to study magnetic fields around the Earth at four points in space simultaneously. The result of ten years' work were lost when Cluster crashed into the swamps of French Guiana after Ariane 5 failed.

Murder hunt move

Police hunting the killer of Louise Smith, who was murdered after leaving a nightclub two years ago, began searching a house 400 yards from where her body was found. Miss Smith, 18, left a club called Spirals in Yate, near Bristol, early on Christmas Day, 1995. Her body was found eight weeks later in a quarry. Police yesterday removed two family cars and a mattress from the house and dug up the garden.

Corneas grown in lab

Italian scientists have repaired badly damaged eyes by growing fresh corneas in a laboratory dish. The cornea is the transparent material which covers the iris and pupil. Severe corneal damage can cause blindness. The team reports in *The Lancet* that, two years later, the tissue remains in place, is functioning normally and there has been "a striking improvement in patients' comfort and visual acuity".

Ice-fall mother returns

A mother of three-year-old triplets, whose expedition to the North Pole almost ended in disaster, said that she survived a five-minute plunge into the freezing waters of the Arctic Ocean by recalling her husband's parting words. Ann Daniels, 32, said: "When I left my husband, he told me, 'If things get bad, stay calm.' I started to pull myself out and, on the third attempt, I managed." She returned to Britain yesterday after more than a month away from her family.

Veteran dies in break-in

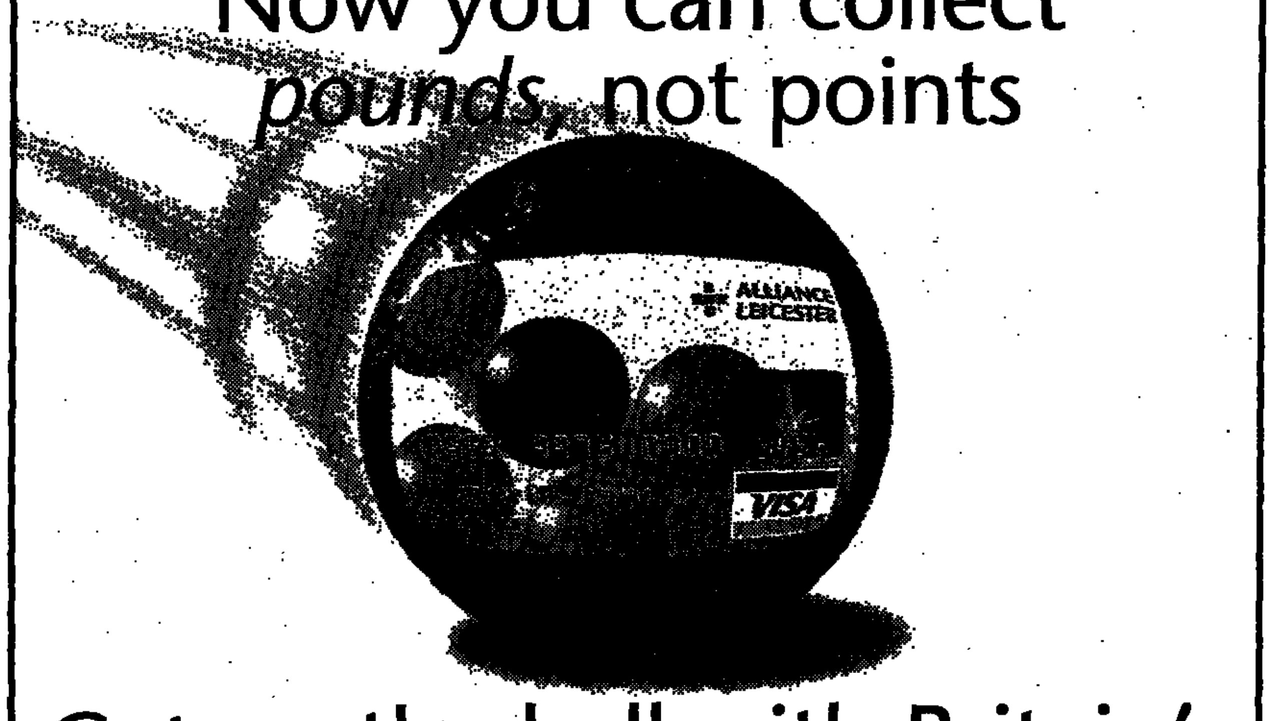
An 82-year-old war veteran collapsed and died after chasing two thieves he disturbed breaking into his car. Peter Kotwinski, who fled to Britain from Poland after the Nazis invaded and served with the air force, had been visiting his wife Margaret in a nursing home in Ashton under Lyne. After seeing two young men taking the radio cassette, Mr Kotwinski alerted staff at the nursing home, then gave chase.

Thief let his name slip

Neil Turley, 27, of Lydney, Gloucestershire, had a twinge of conscience after stealing a car for a 350-mile round trip. And that was his undoing. When he returned, he left a box of chocolates in the car with a note of apology written on the back of a bail form giving his name and address. Turley pleaded guilty to several charges, including taking the car and driving without insurance. He was banned for six months and placed on probation for two years.

Cardholders must be aged 18 or over. Applications are subject to status. Written quotations available on request. For Purchases and Balance Transfers, interest will be charged on a daily basis at the standard rate of 1.38% per month 17.9% APR (variable), 19.7% APR (variable) for cash advances. *Special Promotional Balance Transfer Rate of 12.9% APR (fixed) only applies to balances transferred within 8 weeks of opening your account. Conditions and restrictions apply to both the Money Back Scheme and the Introductory Rate for Balance Transfers. Full details available on request and are included in the application pack. Within 23 days of the date of your monthly statement, you must repay at least 3% of the amount outstanding (£5 minimum). The standard Money Back on purchases is 0.5% up to £2,999.99 and 1% above. As an introductory offer, on purchases made in 1997, there is 1% Money Back on purchases up to £1,999.99 and 2% above. Handling charge of 1.5% (£2 minimum) payable on Cash Advances. For security and training purposes, telephone calls will be recorded and monitored. Registered Details: Alliance & Leicester Building Society. Principal Office: 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EQ. All information correct at 11.3.97.

Now you can collect *pounds*, not points



Get on the ball with Britain's only *money back credit card*

Get on the ball for *double money back.* Apply today
☎ CALL FREE 0500 83 83 83
Quoting Ref: X ODU
Lines open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

The new Alliance & Leicester Credit Card gives you *money back* on every purchase, every year! There's no other card like it in the U.K. today!

Just look at all the advantages you enjoy:

- *money back* on every purchase, every year
- *double money back* of up to 2% in 1997
- no annual fee – unlike many other credit cards
- up to 46 days interest-free credit
- free Purchase Protection

YES – please send my FREE Information Pack on the new Alliance & Leicester *money back credit card.*

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Initials Surname
Address
Postcode Date of Birth
Tel. No. (inc. STD code) X ODU
Post to: Alliance & Leicester Credit Cards,
FREEPOST, 58-62 Hagley Road,
Birmingham B16 8PE. (No *stamp* needed.)

The money back credit card
Your questions answered

Low standard rates of 17.9% APR and 12.9% APR on transferred balances* until they are repaid

ALLIANCE LEICESTER

Posthouse *first for all the* right reasons

No. 2
Easy Booking

Simply call our freephone number on 0800 40 40 40 and our central reservations will confirm all your requirements.

FORTE Posthouse

To book any hotel call free 0800 404040
or call your local travel agent

[illegible] من [illegible]

Tycoon brought down BCCI with £750m fraud

By Jon Ashworth

Gokal: attempted to escape in Pakistan

Gokal's wife: the family kept three houses

ABBAS GOKAL, the shipping mogul convicted yesterday of stealing $1.2 billion (£750 *million*) from customers of the *Bank of Credit and Commerce* International, spent the money on a life of Rolls-Royces, private jets and exotic holidays.

Victims of the fraud ranged from the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi, who lost about £312 million, to Western Isles council in Scotland (£24 *million*), Westminster City Council (£3.5 million) and Harlow council in Essex (£4.5 million). *Council tax bills will be higher* and council services reduced *as a result until well* into the next century.

Gokal's personal fortune is thought to exceed £20 million. The son of wealthy Pakistani traders, he was educated at the exclusive St Patrick's High School in Karachi and was a regular visitor to Britain, where the bank had its headquarters.

He had a *home* in *Ealing*, west London, and in Geneva, *plus a chalet in the ski* resort of Mégève. His two sons and two *daughters* are *thought* to have attended expensive schools in Switzerland.

Gokal, 61, and his family ran up credit card bills totalling £245,000 from 1987 to 1992. Since his arrest three *years ago, he had been on* remand at Brixton prison, *where he will remain until he* is sentenced at the Old Bailey next month.

His was the fifth successive conviction from the Serious Fraud Office investigation into BCCI, which collapsed in 1991 with debts of $10 billion. About 38,000 British creditors were affected. The Gokal *case*, led by Chris Dickson, a senior SFO lawyer, *involved the biggest* sum in a British fraud indictment.

Gulf Group was the biggest single borrower from BCCI. The Geneva-based company had borrowed so much money from the bank that one could not survive without the other.

Working with BCCI's senior executives, Gokal created a network of offshore front com*panies to carry funds back to* his own pocket by a circuitous *route. Millions of dollars went* round in an exercise likened by SFO investigators to a "giant washing machine". The money was laundered through banks in New York.

The SFO found documents signed by Gokal in a London safe deposit box which showed *that he and his brothers*, Mustafa and Murtaza, owned *and controlled the companies* involved in the fraud. Secretaries and other junior Gulf Group employees were nominee directors of the phony companies, and were required to sign thousand of documents designed *to throw* BCCI's auditor, Price Waterhouse, off the scent.

The documents were produced in the special duties department at BCCI's headquarters in Leadenhall Street in the City of London. This was a whole unit dedicated to fabricating *documents about* Gulf Group, including invent*ing commercial histories for* the non-existent businesses and *false* loan agreements.

Gokal fled from Geneva for *Pakistan* in 1992, shortly before police raided his offices. In July 1994 he was invited to America to give evidence under an immunity-from-prosecution deal agreed with the American authorities, but the SFO was tipped off and the police were waiting when his flight landed at Frankfurt to refuel.

He had been declared bankrupt by this stage, but never*theless flew first class under* an assumed name. He was *arrested and extradited* to Britain. After repeated delays, the *trial* opened at the Old Bailey in September 1996.

The main loser in the BCCI affair is undoubtedly the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi, who deposited more than £1.625 billion with BCCI over a ten-year period. He thought the *money* was being invested in *safe government instruments*. Between 1983 and 1989, *more than* £312 *million of his* money was siphoned off to *Gulf Group. Only about* £102 million has been recovered.

Many small businesses and private individuals also lost money, including a Londoner who was saving for a bone marrow transplant for his adopted son.

Gokal, who had denied *fraud and false accounting*, will be sentenced at the Old *Bailey next month and faces* confiscation of some of his assets. He received legal aid for the 122-day trial, estimated to have cost a total of £10 million. He may be made to contribute to his defence bill.

Amy Prideaux at Shelley's Cottage where, she claims, the poet honeymooned

The other Shelley's cottage, at the Rising Sun Hotel, admits it may have rivals

Clash of chapter and verse over Shelley's abode

By Alan Hamilton

The only Percy Bysshe Shelley, romantic poet

TWO *rival* Devon *hoteliers* are locked in dispute over *which of their inns* played host to Percy Shelley and his teenage bride Harriet Westbrook on their honeymoon in 1812. Both the Rising Sun and Shelley's Cottage Hotel in the village of Lynmouth are claiming that the pale romantic poet, then only 20 years *old, began his brief* marriage to the 16-year-old Harriet in their rooms.

Both, it appears, are entirely wrong: Shelley honeymooned 600 miles away, in Edinburgh.

The dispute, which has simmered for years, has resurfaced because of the Rising Sun's inclusion in the latest edition of the Great Inns of England guidebook, and its subsequent advertising in national newspapers, playing on *the Shelley connection. Amy* Prideaux, proprietor of the *rival* Shelley's Cottage, insisted yesterday that hers was the *true location.*

Hugo Jeune, proprietor of the Rising Sun, said yesterday he did not want to comment on what he regarded as an old row. But he said he had never claimed to have any documentary evidence that his hotel was the Shelleys' love nest, and had never denied that there were two possible claimants *to the title*.

The truth of the matter, *according to all the standard* biographies of the poet, is that Shelley *ran away to* Edinburgh and married Harriet there on August 28, 1811, remaining in the city for some time before journeying with their friend Thomas Jefferson Hogg — who wasted no time in making a pass at the new Mrs Shelley — to York. Ten months later the Shelleys *arrived in Lynmouth*.

Roderick Cavaliero of the Keats-Shelley Memorial Association yesterday burrowed *into the poet's own letters to* discover Shelley's description of his Devon home: "The poverty and humbleness of the apartments is compensated by their number, and we can invite our friends with a consciousness that there is enclosed space wherein they may sleep."

Whichever is the correct cottage, *it did the Shelleys no* good. Within two years Percy *ran off to* Switzerland with Mary Godwin, and Devon never saw him again.

Reward to catch New Year killer

By Daniel McGrory

THE parents of a murdered schoolgirl are hoping that a £23,000 reward will tempt *someone to stop shielding her* killer. Detectives are still baffled *after three months* of inquiries.

Nicola Dixon, 17, was sexually attacked and bludgeoned to death on her way to a New Year's Eve party in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. Police received 1,500 calls from the public, but none has led to the murderer. Local businessmen and community leaders *have now helped to raise* the reward money.

Rita Dixon, 46, said yesterday: "Someone must be shielding the murderer. *We can not* rest until the killer is arrested and in prison. Nicola deserves justice. We do not want the murderer to strike again and inflict hell on another family."

Detective Chief Inspector Kelvin Roberts said: "I find it hard to believe that somebody doesn't know, or have a suspicion, that their friend, neighbour, partner or husband is responsible for Nicola's death."

Nicola Dixon: she was killed in alleyway

Police have begun DNA *tests on more than* 100 *local* youths. There is concern that the killer *must be local*, and women are reluctant to walk alone after dark through backstreets.

The killer struck in the grounds of a house, vacated just three days earlier, alongside a dimly lit alleyway. Walburga Burrell, whose flat is 50 yards from the entrance to the alleyway, said: "Women *won't walk there at nights now* as the *man must* have picked *the one place around here* where he knew he could not be seen."

The victim was in her last year at school studying for A levels and worked as a volunteer with children's groups as part of her Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

A man about 5ft 5in, in his early 20s, in a dark overcoat and Doc Marten's boots, was seen a few yards behind *Nicola as she slithered* on snow-covered roads on the *way to a pub to meet friends*. Police do not know whether she had been stalked.

Mr Crouch said: "Someone is shielding whoever *did it*, and perhaps money might tempt them to betray him. More than 1,500 calls from the public is unprecedented."

Nicola's father, Andy Dixon, added: "It's frustrating: there *has* been a *magnificent* response and yet it hasn't brought a result."

Drunk trio jailed over flight delay

By Emma Wilkins

THREE drunken passengers who caused a pilot to abort a flight seconds before take-off were each jailed for six months yesterday.

The men were escorted from the Air 2000 flight bound for *Crete after hurling abuse* at each other and insulting stewardesses at Manchester airport last July. The other 231 passengers cheered as they were removed.

Manchester Crown Court was told that Edward Lunden, Philip Vincent and Ian Lewis were among a group of nine friends travelling together. *But they* were so drunk that they needed help to walk up *the aircraft steps to their seats*. Michael Murray, for the pros*ecution, said.*

They were warned by the cabin crew five times as the aircraft made its way towards the runway, *until* the *pilot* decided that it was not safe to take off with them on board and returned to the terminal where the three were arrested.

Lunden, 23, Vincent, 20, and Lewis, 22, all from Liverpool, admitted drunkenness on an aircraft, but they looked shocked when Judge Blackburn jailed them and ordered *them to* pay the airline £450 each as compensation for the *delay they caused*.

The judge said: "This is not ordinary drunkenness — *disgusting as it is* — this is drunkenness on an aeroplane carrying a large number of passengers, where discipline *is* important. This sort of behaviour will not be tolerated *for safety reasons*."

Laird fires poaching broadside

By Shirley English

A HIGHLAND laird has accused residents of Fort William of being "idle deer poachers" cashing in on the demand for venison created by the BSE crisis.

Michael Wigan, who owns the 23,000-acre Borrobol estate in east Sutherland, says that poaching has become big business for some Highlanders, as venison is increasingly seen as a safe alternative to beef. He writes in the April edition of the hunting and shooting magazine *The Field*: "Fort William houses many theoretically idle men surrounded by deer country. Lochaber is a notorious poaching ground ... most *Highland deer* poachers are local men with poaching in their blood."

His remarks provoked an angry response from Ian *MacDonald*, who represents Fort William on Highland Council. *Trading insults*, he said: "This man obviously has a totally jaundiced outlook on life. I know locals in the town are annoyed by these statements, *but my* advice is to laugh it off. Gnat bites do not hurt anyone. *Let this idiot* have his say."

Mr Wigan wrote that some *young people had turned* their backs on mainstream careers in favour of the lucrative, tax-free income available from poaching. "Game dealers *were paying* estates £1.40 a pound in autumn 1996. This means a good stag *in prime* condition in September would fetch £200. Five stags a week is £1,000. No tax is paid and there are no costs."

Mr Wigan, who regularly writes about the Highlands, is an Englishman who inherited the Borrobol estate at Helmsdale and lives on the farm all year. It was bought by his family in 1938 for £32,000.

To the ends of the earth and the top of the world.
Only two of us have made it.

On May 9th 1994, Erling Kagge conquered Everest and became the first man to achieve the impossible.

He'd made it to the North Pole with no outside help. He'd made it to the South Pole totally alone. And he'd climbed Everest at his first attempt.

He was accompanied on all three expeditions by one watch. His Rolex.

"The reason I've succeeded is not because I've been fitter than anyone else but because I've been very thorough with my preparations.

"I studied the equipment that the local inhabitants use.

"I looked at high tech and low tech. Then, eventually, by drawing on everyone's experience, I chose the equipment I knew I could trust."

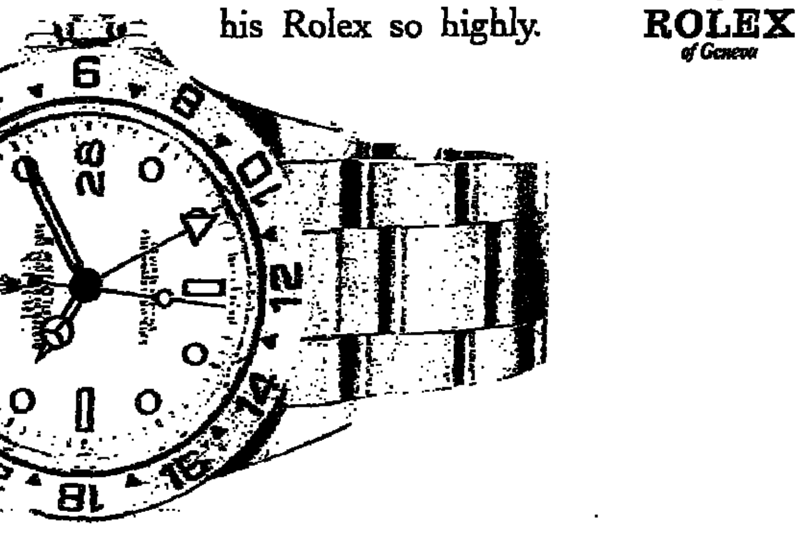
So not surprisingly, Erling Kagge chose a Rolex Explorer II. "I knew instinctively that it was the right watch," he says. "It's built to withstand almost anything. It's the only thing that's been on all the trips with me and it's never once let me down."

Strength and reliability are qualities that Erling Kagge values above all others.

"I never trust to luck," he says. "But the fact is, the better your equipment the luckier you get."

Maybe that's why he values his Rolex so highly.

ROLEX
of Geneva



The Rolex Oyster Perpetual Explorer II in stainless steel with matching Oyster bracelet.

Only a select group of jewellers sell Rolex watches. For the address of your nearest Rolex jeweller, and for further information on the complete range of Rolex watches, write to: The Rolex Watch Company Limited, 3 Stratford Place, London W1N 0ER or telephone 0171-629 5071.

Advert campaign prescribes cannabis

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AN ADVERTISING campaign promoting the therapeutic use of cannabis for arthritis and multiple sclerosis is be launched this weekend. It argues that laws banning medicinal use are contradictory, as GPs are allowed to prescribe substitutes for other drugs such as heroin.

One advertisment shows a cannabis leaf in a pestle and mortar, and has the slogan: "I can't prescribe you a safe, naturally occurring herb for the pain of MS. But I can give you heroin."

Cannabis was available on prescription until 1971. The new move has been organised by Clare Hodges, an MS sufferer who runs the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics. She told the advertising magazine *Campaign*: "We are not campaigning for the general legalisation of cannabis. We want people to understand it is a valuable medicine and we are campaigning to have it made available from doctors.

"I am running this campaign from my back room. I hope it will take things on to a new level."

Sharon Gallacher, an advertising executive who created the advertisements without charge, said: "I read an article about Clare Hodges and contacted her to see if there was anything I could do to help. The idea is to raise people's consciousness. Most people are aghast if you tell them that you can get heroin on prescription, but not cannabis."

The alliance has been hoping that newspapers might agree to print the advertisements without charge. Yesterday the *Economist* magazine said it would be delighted to carry the advertisements, although it would be reluctant to run them free.

Alan Dunachie, advertising manager for the *Economist*, said: "It would be difficult for a publication which has already written several times about bringing cannabis within the law not to run these advertisements."

Eurotunnel safety promise fails to curb blaze fears

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

EUROTUNNEL agreed yesterday to introduce new safety procedures after admitting that there had been "avoidable delays" in tackling the Channel Tunnel fire last November. But the company said it would not change the open latticework wagons which some believe caused a "blowtorch" effect in the tunnel.

The Fire Brigades Union accused executives of complacency after they confirmed that more of the wagons were to be ordered at a cost of £130 million. The Consumers' Association urged lorry drivers to think twice before they used the freight service. "The evidence produced by Eurotunnel doesn't address the question of the lattice-sided wagons at all. There are more questions than answers," a spokesman said.

Eurotunnel hopes that its new measures, including smokehoods for crew and passengers, will allow freight services to resume by mid-June. The Channel Tunnel Safety Authority said, however, that it wanted more information and that it was impossible to predict when permission would be given for trains to start.

Thirty people needed hospital treatment after being trapped in a smoke-filled compartment when the fire broke out 12 miles from the French coast. Fifteen lorries and the rear locomotive of the shuttle were destroyed, as was 600 metres of tunnel.

The cause of the blaze is still being investigated by the French authorities, although in its report yesterday Eurotunnel ruled out a system or mechanical failure. Investigations have centred on multiple failures of the tunnel safety systems, including the ventilation system, and an apparent one-hour delay in summoning Kent Fire Brigade.

Robert Malpas, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, conceded yesterday that more could have been done to help the passengers to escape more quickly. "We have, of course, learnt lessons from this incident and have already implemented a number of important changes in procedures, equipment, manning levels and training to improve further the protection of passengers, employees and the tunnel itself," he said.

Mr Malpas defended the decision to place a £130 million order for more lattice design wagons within 18 months. "I do not believe there is any need to modify the design of the wagons," he said. "We are in discussions with the safety authority."

Mike Fordham, assistant general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, said Eurotunnel's refusal to change the wagons was complacency at its worst. "There will be another fire down the tunnel — that's a certainty. Fires will always occur. We believe that if it does occur, life will be lost. The public should not travel down there until it is as safe as it can possibly be," he said.

The tighter safety measures announced yesterday include more fire suppression systems in the tunnel, more checks on each lorry as it is loaded, and electronic devices to show more precisely where a train has stopped.

All freight shuttles will be fitted with smokehoods before the service resumes. The smokehoods, which were being tested yesterday by Kent Fire Brigade, will be kept in the amenity coach of the freight shuttles and distributed by the *chef de train*.

A spokesman for the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority said its report on the fire would be released after the election. "We are considering Eurotunnel's submissions at the moment. We have asked them already to complete a number of measures as a precondition to restarting the shuttle service."

The fire has so far cost about £75 million in lost revenue. The car service has been restricted by the tunnel repairs. The cost to the company will be about £10 million with the rest covered by insurers. Total claims on insurers, including repair costs, are likely to be nearly £200 million.

SAFE PASSAGE

The new safety measures announced yesterday by Eurotunnel include:

- ☐ **in the event of fire, the train immediately to make a controlled stop and passengers to be evacuated to the service tunnel as a priority**
- ☐ **smokehoods for passengers and crew**
- ☐ **centralising all fire alarm monitors in railway control centre**
- ☐ **more fire suppression systems in tunnel**
- ☐ **improved manning of the control centre**
- ☐ **installing electronic devices to specify where a train has stopped in the tunnel**
- ☐ **better staff training**
- ☐ **more checks on each lorry at time of loading**
- ☐ **surveillance of each departing shuttle by crew at both ends of platform, in contact with control centre**
- ☐ **trains with fires on board will be allowed to proceed only if close to an exit**
- ☐ **installation of additional fire suppression systems**
- ☐ **six fire control stations with a water spray system in each tunnel**

Jeremy Irons arriving for yesterday's inquest. His vehicle overturned in the crash

Irons tells of fight to avoid crash that killed driver of 79

BY TIM JONES

THE actor Jeremy Irons described yesterday how he tried to avoid an oncoming car before a crash on an Oxfordshire country road that resulted in the death of a 79-year-old driver.

Richard Belgrove, of Thame, Oxfordshire, suffered multiple injuries and died in hospital a month after the accident last September. Mr Irons, 48, told the inquest in Oxford that, as he rounded a notorious bend near Tetsworth in his four-wheel-drive vehicle, he saw Mr Belgrove's car straddling the white line. "The car was moving further over towards me into my line and I swerved to avoid it," he said.

"I pulled on to the verge but not far enough, because there was an impact. At that point I closed my eyes and when I opened them again I found my Jeep was on its side."

Mr Irons, who won a best-actor Oscar for his role in *Reversal of Fortune*, lives in Watlington and said he was familiar with the road. He had noticed the offside wheels of Mr Belgrove's car were under pressure as it negotiated the bend. The driver's wife, Doris, 83, who was a passenger, said that she remembered nothing of the accident.

Sergeant Frank Yabsley of Thames Valley Police said that, if Mr Irons had not been driving a left-hand-drive vehicle, he would have been seriously injured. There was no evidence that either driver had been going too fast.

Nicholas Gardiner, the Oxfordshire Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Five days before the accident, Mr Irons's wife, Sinead Cusack, and their two sons escaped injury when their horsebox overturned on the M4 in South Wales.

The way to a woman's heart is through your wallet

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

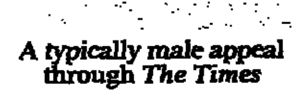
MEN advertising for partners in newspapers want a physically attractive woman, while women want a solvent, independent man, a study of lonely-hearts columns shows.

The findings of the study of 2,000 lonely-hearts advertisements which appeared in 20 local and two national newspapers, including *The Times*, provide useful tips on how to get the most replies.

Analysis of the advertisements, presented at the British Psychological Society's annual conference in Edinburgh, showed that men tended to offer wealth, professional status and property, and to seek attractive women with warmth and sensitivity, traditionally seen as feminine qualities. Women tended to emphasise their attractiveness but, above all, what they wanted in a man was solvency.

Many men also claimed to offer warmth, love and care — and did so more than the women. Mark Mason, of Nene College, Northampton, who conducted the study, said it was impossible to tell whether these were genuinely meant, or a cynical ploy designed to entrap unwary women.

"It is possible men are changing and becoming 'new men' who are less shy about advertising these qualities," he said. "Or it may be that they know this is what women want and are offering it as a way of gaining more replies."



AFFECTIONATE, loving, jolly, professional, romantic, sensitive, successful fit 49, gentleman seeks genuine pretty woman, feminine, soft, sexy, affectionate, easy going, unattached with sense of adventure to voyage to Paradise. 28-40 North-west. Photo/tel no. to Box 1449

A typically male appeal through *The Times*

Mr Mason said earlier studies had shown that advertisers who offered stereotypical qualities got more replies. "Heterosexual females look for rich men — wage-earners with their own home and car. They offer attractiveness a lot and heterosexual males seek it a lot."

Few advertisers departed from convention. The commonest adjective used was genuine, closely followed by humorous, attractive, caring and loving. Only two advertisements in a thousand included adjectives such as fat, unattractive, cynical and eccentric.

Mr Mason said the ideal advertisement that a man could place would highlight his salary, independence, home ownership and caring nature. A sense of humour and physical attractiveness would enhance his appeal. Women should concentrate entirely on their physical attributes, using adjectives such as slim, tall and shapely.

Kirk warning over Toronto Blessing

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of Scotland has warned members about the Toronto Blessing, a charismatic form of worship that originated in Canada and which can leave worshippers shaking violently, falling over, emitting animal noises and appearing drunk.

A detailed report by the Kirk's Panel on Doctrine, which is to be debated at the General Assembly next month, urges caution and says there is "excessive individualism, self-indulgence, elitism and theological triumphalism". It does not condemn the Toronto Blessing outright, saying that the Church may "learn from greater openness to the Spirit", but it says there is little scriptural backing for the blessing.

The Toronto Blessing originated at the Toronto Airport Vineyard Christian Fellowship on January 20, 1994, and, according to the report, is "still in its embryonic stage". Speaking in tongues, prophecy and healing can be part of the experience.

The Rev John McPake, one of the authors, said: "The report articulates a range of serious concerns which advocates of the blessing would do well to ponder and reflect upon."

BBC to debunk myths of history

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is aiming to debunk popular myths about the history of Britain with the production of a television series on the nation's past.

The 16 programmes — from when the Romans left Britain in the early 5th century, up to 1914 — will form one of the corporation's most ambitious factual series.

Janice Hadlow, editor of *A History of Britain*, said that the programmes would be aimed at a mass audience, but would incorporate intellectual theories and challenge conventional perspectives. "We look back at Elizabeth I and the Armada, knowing it all turned out to be OK for her. We see that time as one of great triumph for Britain. But she was actually fighting for her life, both literally and as a stateswoman," she said. "She was fighting in Europe at a time when England was very beleaguered — it had been through 50 or 60 years of religious upheaval and was facing opposition from France and Spain.

"As we approach the millennium there's a huge amount of debate about what Britain is, how we got here, who we really are and how do we relate to the United States and Europe. That's what we hope to tackle."

She said that the series would draw from the works of contemporary historians and chroniclers of the past, using letters and diaries depicting the lives of ordinary people. "We would hope to use things like the Paston letters. These were from a 15th-century family in Kent and are one of the earliest exchanges of letters. When the son went to London, his mother wrote to him. They give lots of details of everyday life."

Historians yesterday welcomed the series. Lord Blake, former Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, said: "People are very ignorant of their history and anything that brings it to a wider audience is to be welcomed."

The television series will be complemented by drama and music programmes on Radios 3 and 4. It will be ready for broadcast in 1999.

Boy's family blame police for cell death

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE family of a 15-year-old boy who was found hanging while in police custody accused the police of negligence yesterday and said that they were considering legal action.

They said the boy was obviously at risk of suicide, having threatened to kill himself when he was arrested, and that the police should have supervised him more carefully. The Police Complaints Authority is investigating.

David Green died on Wednesday in an intensive care unit, two days after being found unconscious in a cell at Hartlepool police station. He had been arrested on Sunday night apparently as he attempted to burgle a house near his home in Hartlepool. He was detained by the occupant until police arrived.

On Monday morning, members of his family visited him at the police station. At 3pm a custody officer found him unconscious with a cord around his neck. Attempts to revive him failed and he was taken to Hartlepool General Hospital.

Yesterday an inquest was opened and adjourned by Olof Bjarkeroth, the Cleveland Coroner. A post-mortem examination was carried out but no details were disclosed.

NEW GAMES TITLES

10 extra thrill-a-minute courses for the chart topping Network Rally. The ultimate challenge for rally championship drivers. £14.99 NEW

Command and conquer down under! Set in a post apocalyptic Australia, it's humans versus bizarre mutants for control of the world's fuel supplies in this fast moving strategy game. 90% PC GAMER. £24.99 NEW

Kick off has captured the speed, accuracy and the atmosphere of the real thing, to create a whole new football experience. £29.99 NEW

COMMAND & CONQUER: COVERT OPERATIONS BUNDLE - special offer double pack. After years of conflict only two super powers remain. Decide who you support, build your bases, rally or divide your forces and reduce your opposition to pulp. Includes Covert Operations for extra levels. £34.99 NEW

FIFA 97 New developments include real time 3D graphic simulation and motion blending which allows total freedom of play and realistic playing styles. £29.99 TOP SELLING TITLE

SPECIAL OFFER DOUBLE PACK The official RAC rally simulation. Features realistic handling and 3D panoramic views. Includes X-Miles for 10 extra courses. In-store £39.99 £29.99 SAVE £10

THE COMET PRICE PROMISE

THE COMET PRICE

If you buy any product from Comet, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

THE VERY LATEST ACTION-PACKED PC SOFTWARE

THEME HOSPITAL

91% PC ZONE

£29.99 NEW

94% PC GAMER

MDK

£29.99 NEW

SPRING CLEAN YOUR PC
WITH ALL THE LATEST UTILITY SOFTWARE

PC-CILLIN 95 Offers complete virus protection for Windows 95, Windows 3.1 with the internet constantly working behind your applications to detect viruses whenever your PC is on. £29.99 NEW

FIRST AID 97 First checks every vital component on your PC, ensures maximum efficiency and automatically fixes any problems. Also available First Aid 97 (3.1) version. £34.99 NEW

MAGNARAM 97 Optimises memory on your computer to improve your applications and maximises the hard drive memory space. In-store £39.99 £34.99 SAVE £5

WIN DELETE V.3 The safest uninstaller for Windows users that takes extra care to keep those vital files intact. £39.99 NEW

CLEANSWEEP V.3 Completely removes any Windows 95, Windows 3.1 or DOS programmes from your hard drive including awkward system files. Also archives and backs up files. £39.99 NEW

FIRST AID 97 DELUXE Protects against crashes and freezes, then fixes them. Checks over 2000 software programmes for configuration problems. Includes Windows 95 and Get Connected. Normal combined selling price £58.89. £49.99 NEW

COMET – FOR YOUR SOFTWARE NEEDS
■ FREE 30 DAY TELEPHONE SUPPORT ON ALL SOFTWARE
■ UP TO 250 TITLES TO CHOOSE FROM
■ MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE FROM ONLY £4.99, IN-STORE†
■ CHOOSE FROM A WIDE RANGE OF EDUCATION, ENTERTAINMENT AND HOME OFFICE SOFTWARE

COMET

MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY AND UNTIL 8PM WEEKDAYS
RING FREE ON 0500 425 425 FOR LOCAL STORE INFORMATION

Cats on a warm roof more likely to fall

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

CATS risk many of their nine lives falling from high-rise buildings, a French vet said yesterday.

Addressing the annual congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association in Birmingham, Gilles Dupré said nine out of ten cats survived when they tumbled from high buildings. Some had walked away from falls of eight storeys or more, but "high-rise syndrome" was an increasing hazard.

Dr Dupré and his colleagues at the Clinique Frégis in Paris, which specialises in emergency care, have studied 413 cats which fell more than two storeys. Eighty per cent survived.

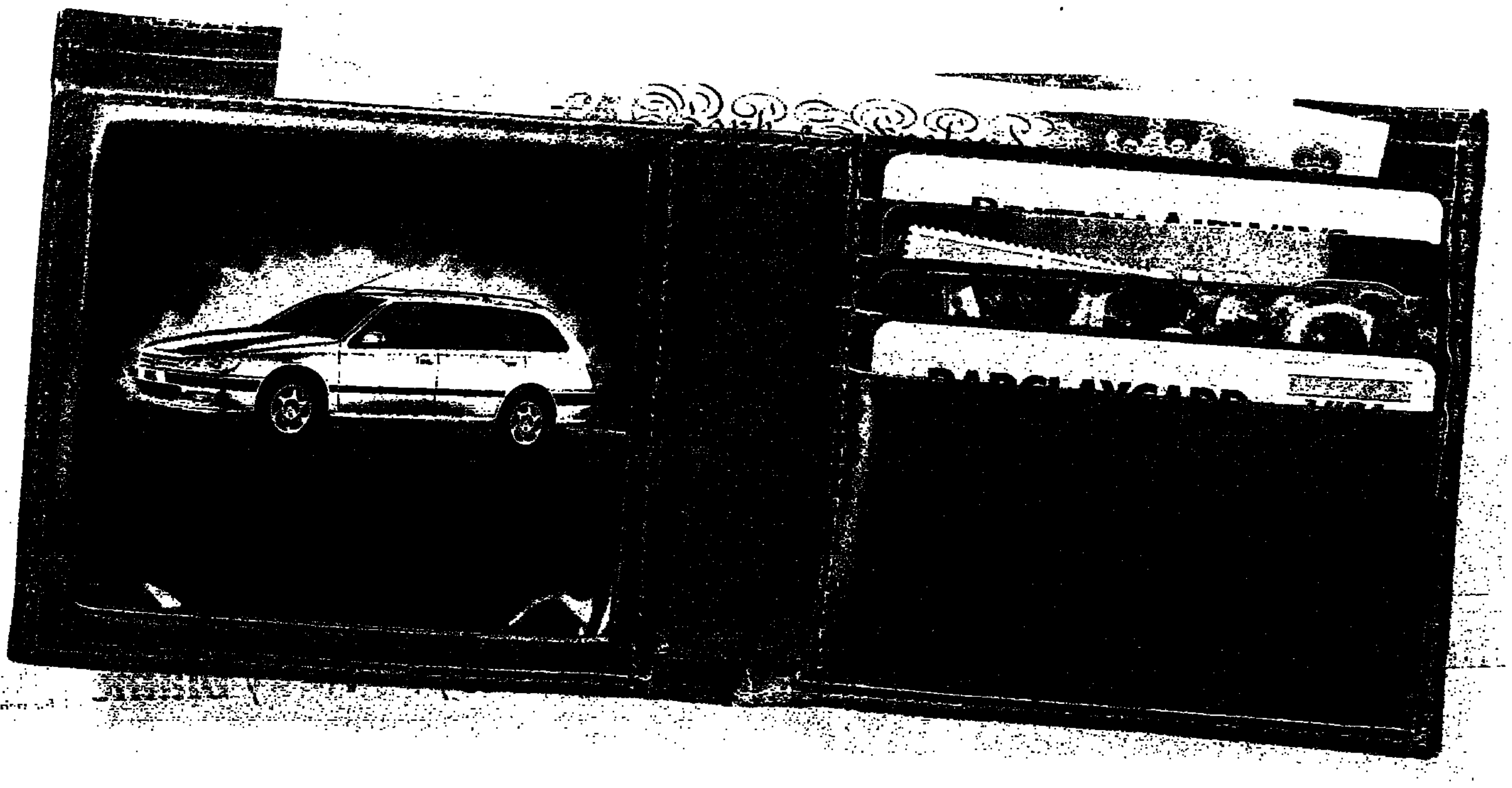
The research found that 72 per cent of the cats which fell or jumped from buildings were under two years old. After that age, it seemed, cats learnt more sense. "As far as we know, cats, unlike humans, do not commit suicide by jumping from heights," Dr Dupré said. "They either fall by accident or because they are trying to catch something in the air.

"But they do seem prone to jump or fall more often in the spring, and at other times when the sun comes out after prolonged overcast weather."

Prompt and knowledgeable veterinary treatment was essential, Dr Dupré said, if the cats' luck was to last. "Two of the most common injuries are rupture of the lungs and internal bleeding in the lungs, conditions which will not usually show up unless the chest X-ray is done immediately." Dr Dupré said improvements in emergency treatment had greatly enhanced the chances of survival.

KENYA
SAMBURU SAFARI
1Nt NAIROBI, 2Nts SAMBURU, 1Nt TREETOPS,
1Nt LAKE NAIVASHA, Plus 2 Nts MASAI MARA.
7Nts: Safari F/B, Nairobi B & B FROM £785
* GUARANTEED DEPARTURES & WINDOW SEAT *
* OPTIONAL BEACH EXTENSIONS AVAILABLE *
SCHEDULED FLIGHTS FROM LONDON HEATHROW
Contact Your Travel Agent or call
Request Your Brochure
Somak HOLIDAYS
TEL: 0181 423 3000
24 HOUR SERVICE

هكذا من الاعلانات



THE NEW PEUGEOT 406 ESTATE. LOVE IT FOR ITS LOOKS.

The new Peugeot 406 Estate is a most elegant car. Its sweeping lines and subtle curves are the envy of many designers. However, it's more than just a pretty face. It comes with a stunning range of diesel and petrol engines, including a sexy new V6. And all models are fitted with twin airbags, power-steering and remote central-locking as standard. Starting at an alluring £14,940,* we think it will appeal to your head, as well as your heart. For a free information pack call 0345 000 406.†

406 PEUGEOT

THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

*THE ROAD PRICE BASED ON A BEAUTIFUL PEUGEOT 406 ESTATE 1.8 L PETROL MODEL AND INCLUDES DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND 12 MONTHS' ROAD FUND LICENCE. †CALLS CHARGED AT A LOCAL RATE. THE LOVELY MODEL FEATURED IS THE SUBLIME PEUGEOT 406 ESTATE EXECUTIVE FROM £21,390 ON THE ROAD. METALLIC PAINT EXTRA COST OPTION. PRICE AND INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

Pulp Fiction 'looks tame' as demand grows for real TV violence

By Paul Wilkinson

TELEVISION shows such as *Blind Date* and *Gladiators* pander to a growing public desire for real, rather than fictional, sex and violence, a criminologist claimed yesterday. *Gladiators* was far more worrying than the violent film *Pulp Fiction*, Mike Presdee said, because people from children to grandparents sat around the television cheering on scantily clad women contestants hitting and wrestling with each other. *Blind Date*, he said, was not romantic, but "nasty and too sexy".

Mr Presdee, a reader in criminology at the University of Sunderland, and Gavin Carver, of the University of Kent, put these views in a paper, *The Consumption of Crime as Popular Pleasure*, which Mr Presdee will present at the British Sociological Conference at York University next week. The paper, which will be among 300 contributions to the conference by sociologists from around the world, urges more honesty about the growing addiction to real violence.

Mr Presdee said yesterday that violence and suffering had moved from drama to real people in recent years and "humiliation television" was pulling in the viewers. "Viewers want to see proper humiliation and cruelty. *Blind Date* is based on emotional cruelty. It can be nasty and shocking and often is sexually gratuitous. Some contestants have been clearly badly affected by it. It is certainly not the romantic thing they set it out to be. Yet we love it, don't we? We can't wait to see the bit where they tear into each other. Isn't that quite worrying?"

He said *Gladiators* "has both violence and sex. There are people with beautiful bodies hitting each other. The women are dressed in skimpy outfits and are trying to hurt one another, but it is seen to be OK. This is sex and violence for the family and it worries me more than *Pulp Fiction* because it is real violence, whereas movies are staged drama. Television is producing violence to be enjoyed by the public."

Fly-on-the-wall programmes such as *Police Stop*, which portrays actual car chases and crashes, show police are excited as much by the action as the viewers and criminals. He said: "Watching crime is big business. Young joyriders want the thrill of the chase and try and provoke the police to create one. It would not be very exciting if the police did not respond, but they often do and the police are part of it. On the videos you can tell by the voices that the police are enjoying it."

Chief Superintendent Chris Tate, head of operational support at West Yorkshire Police, rejected the idea that officers got pleasure from chases. He said: "Police are doing their job and enjoyment does not come into it. We acknowledge that during a car chase adrenalin is produced and there are occasions where officers become over-involved in cases."

Nobody was available to comment on *Blind Date* at London Weekend Television, but a spokesman for *Gladiators*, also made by LWT, said: "Gladiators is a popular family show which parents and grandparents obviously consider suitable for children, judging by the number of families who apply for tickets."

Scare about wild 'beast' spreads to Welsh hills

A MYSTERIOUS beast is stalking the countryside attacking sheep and worrying villagers in the Cambrian mountains, it was disclosed yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes). After the beast of Bodmin, the Fen tiger and the Surrey puma comes the beast — or beasties — of Bont.

Cynog Dafis, the local MP, said yesterday: "There is a fair consenus that a puma or black leopard is at large and that there may be more than one."

The MP, along with farmers' representatives and communites around the town of Pontrhydfendigaid, which is locally known as Bont, last night demanded urgent action and funds from the Welsh Office to track down the animal. The creature, sightings of which cover a 20-mile radius around the town over the past 18 months, was recently reported near the town's pre-primary school.

Mr Dafis said: "There is concern for livestock but now also concern for human safety." He added that the Veterinary Centre in Aberystwyth had confirmed that some sheep had been killed "not by dogs or foxes but something of a feline nature".

Hoaxers fox animal welfare group in clash over lambs

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A SCHEME to compensate hill farmers for lambs killed by foxes has been abandoned after hoax calls sent animal welfare workers driving thousands of miles to bogus addresses.

The League Against Cruel Sports, which is against fox-hunting, launched the compensation scheme after claims by some farmers that a ban on hunting would lead to large-scale losses of lambs. The league offered to pick up carcasses and compensate North Wales farmers at market rates for every lamb proven to have been the victim of a fox.

Half the calls it received turned out to be bogus, with a large number of callers giving their name as Williams. "It is obviously a common name in Wales, but even then it was too many to be a coincidence," Chris Owen, of the league's Cheshire branch, said.

He had been driving up to 250 miles a day, often to fake addresses, in North Wales: the league's four officers were exhausted after covering thousands of miles over the past few days.

Yesterday the scheme was abandoned, with about only 17 lamb carcasses having been collected. Mr Owen added: "It has been disappointing. There has obviously been an organised campaign."

The league said it now planned to expose farmers for failing to care for lambs and sheep. It claimed that staff found numerous dead and dying lambs and sheep which had not been attacked by foxes, but neglected by farmers. Video footage is being handed to the Ministry of Agriculture for investigation.

Janet Smart, also of the league, said there seemed to be a misconception among Welsh hill farmers that the league was opposed to pest control. She said it wanted to ban fox-hunting, but not the right of farmers to flush out foxes using hounds and shoot them.

John Bryant, at the league's London headquarters, said a useful scientific study to assess the damage caused by foxes had been damaged. "We offered to put our money where our mouth is and pay to see who is right."

However, Mr Bryant said the league would contact farmers' leaders to see if the compensation scheme and study could be tried next year. Farmers could have expected up to £40 compensation and the scheme had been officially welcomed, although many believed privately that it was a publicity stunt.

Lewis Griffiths, spokesman for the Farmers' Union of Wales, said that the league's motive had not been to compensate farmers but to prove its case that foxes were not to blame. He said it was regrettable that so many hoax calls had been used. "We had been wondering if they had the people and the finance to do this. We do not believe they can handle or had appreciated the size of the problem."

PHIL MICHEU

Glyn Williams, of Pandy Tudur, North Wales said he lost four of his lambs to foxes

NEWS [illegible]

Children attack policeman

A gang of teenage burglars attacked a detective in Coventry with an iron bar, concrete blocks and bricks. Detective Sergeant Stephen Francis, 43, of West Midlands Police, was recovering yesterday after having stitches for head wounds in the worst attack of his 22-year police career.

Officers had been lying in wait for a gang in a council estate on Tuesday night. When the youths returned, the officers gave chase and Mr Francis was attacked. Seven youths aged as young as 14 were arrested and released on police bail. Detectives are searching for other juveniles.

Vicar drowned

The body of a vicar who drowned during a fishing trip on a lake was recovered yesterday. The Rev Geoffrey Calderbank, 38, had been with a friend near Tregaron, Cardiganshire, on Wednesday. The other angler swam ashore.

Hamster cruelty

A man convicted of biting the head off a hamster at a party has been banned from keeping animals for ten years. Owen Harkin, 25, who denied the charge, was also fined £150 with £600 costs by magistrates in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.

Easter illness

More than 50 children are believed to have suffered food poisoning after sell-by dates on Easter eggs were covered with fake labels. The old eggs are believed to have been sold from market stalls in east London.

Dogs found dead

The charred and dismembered remains of five dogs were found in west Yorkshire, between Kippax and Fairburn Ings. The dogs, found by a kennel worker, are believed to have been young and healthy. Police are investigating.

Rocker arrested

The drummer of the American rock group Fun Lovin' Criminals has been arrested on suspicion of making obscene telephone calls in Leeds. Police traced calls made to gymnasiums to the hotel room of Stephen Borovini, 29.

Organ restored

An organ played by the poet Milton and heard by Oliver Cromwell has been returned to Tewkesbury Abbey after a £500,000 restoration. The 17th-century organ will be heard by Princess Margaret at a thanksgiving service on Sunday.

£2m pint

Guinness is spending more than £2 million teaching bartenders in Europe to pour the perfect pint. Its team will show 14 countries the two-part pour method — filling the glass three-quarters full, pausing and then topping up.

CORRECTIONS

☐ Group 4 security staff were not involved in an incident (report, April 2) in which a prisoner receiving hospital treatment in Sheffield was chained to custody officers.

☐ The telephone number for the Cosmos Venice bargain break (travel news, yesterday) is 0161-480 5799.

Out-of-season treat with a nasty surprise

MEDICAL BRIEFING

FRESH-PICKED strawberries on the school dinner menu while snow still lies on the ground outside the classroom is an inviting thought. It is, however, just as well before eating the strawberries to know who has picked them, where their hands had been before they did the picking, and what the state of the fields' sanitation was like.

Strawberries picked in Mexico were recently bought by American federal authorities for distribution throughout schools in several states. By the time the Michigan authorities had traced an outbreak of hepatitis A to the strawberries, they had long since been distributed to, and presumably eaten by, 9,000 schoolchildren in 18 schools in six states.

Several eminent British doctors would have sympathy for those children and teachers who are by now probably already suffering the early signs and symptoms of hepatitis A. Although the disease, usually caused by contamination with urine and faeces, does not usually cause lasting damage, the initial symptoms can be distressing. The nausea is sometimes so bad that the sight of food, let alone its taste or smell, induces vomiting, coupled with headaches and a high temperature.

Hepatitis A is more infectious before the jaundice shows. Once it appears, patients usually start to feel slightly better.

The British medical establishment will feel much sympathy for the schoolchildren because many of them suffered similarly after a dinner given by the Society of Apothecaries. The soft-fruit pudding was apparently delicious, but its pickers had been paid a piece rate. To increase the weight of the fruit so that they would receive more money, some of the pickers had urinated over it; a high proportion of the doctors developed hepatitis A.

Children and adults can have protection from both hepatitis A and B. A special preparation of the hepatitis A injection is available for children. Adults can have a combined inoculation, Twinrix, which will give protection against both varieties. Twinrix needs three injections. A licence for a paediatric preparation is expected within months.

Strawberies are not the only food that is easily contaminated. A year or two ago pathologists who enjoyed drinking decided to take cultures from the peanuts in the bowls on the bar.

They found that dirty fingers dipped into the nuts had liberally coated the survivors in the bottom of the dishes with *E. coli*, a sure sign of faecal contamination, and that some of the drinkers hadn't washed their hands after a visit to the lavatory.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Wartime father, 72, owns up

By Robin Young

FRANK SHAW could soon be reunited with his wartime sweetheart after more than 50 years, and the daughter he left when she was three months old.

The former Sherwood Forester, now living in Nottingham, has come forward after his former girlfriend, Gaby, a Belgian, travelled to Nottingham at Easter to search for him with her daughter, Josette, who is now 51. Mr Shaw and Gaby first met in Brussels in the closing days of the war.

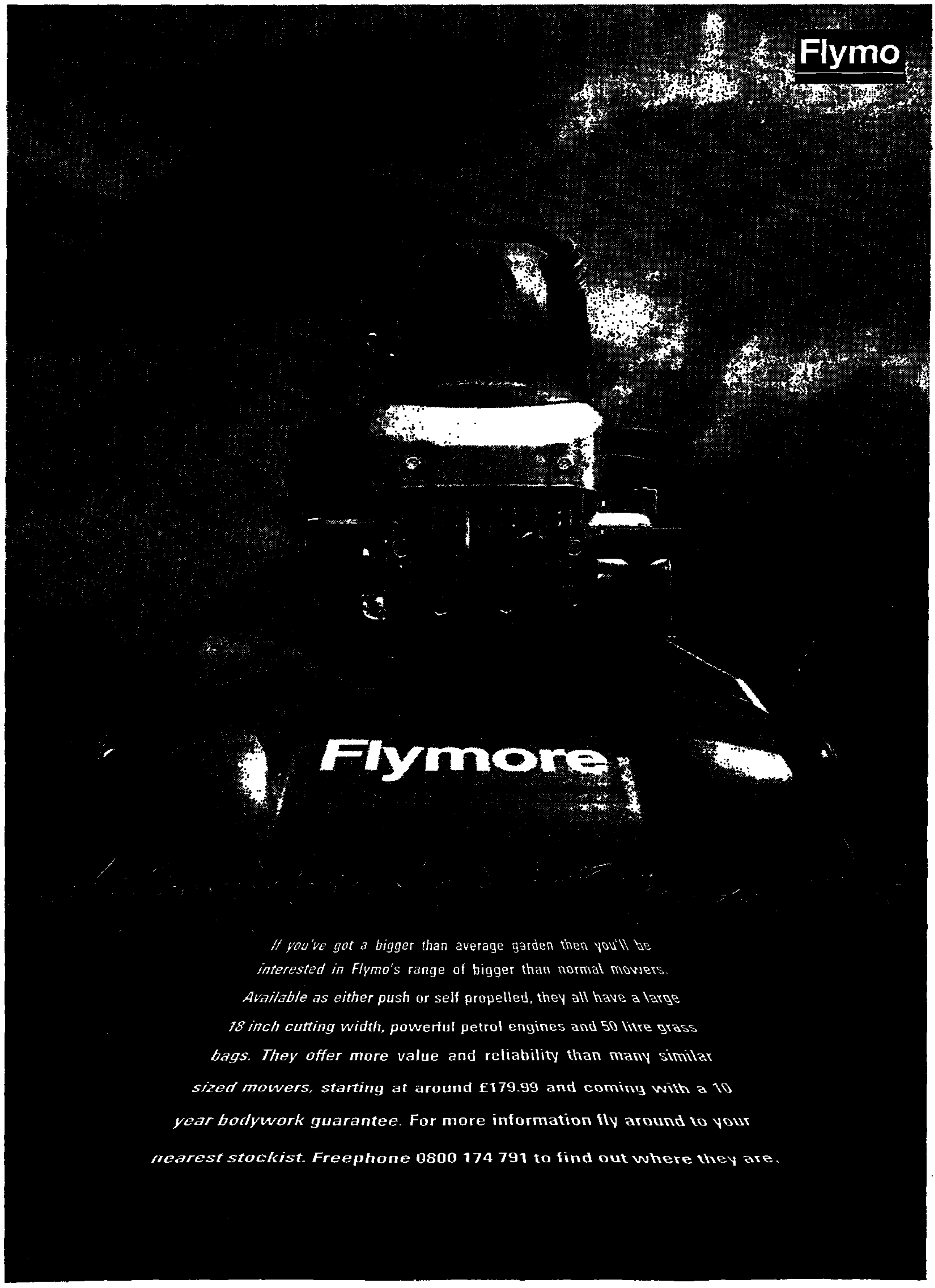
Gaby and Josette refused to disclose their surnames, because they did not want to upset Gaby's Belgian husband, who knew nothing of their quest.

Mr Shaw, 72, said yesterday: "It is not something I am proud of. I think about them often and I feel bad, especially knowing now that Gaby's mother died four months after I left. I will be making contact with Josette as soon as possible, but I do not want to cause any problems with their families."

Mr Shaw, who was 20 at the time of his liaison with Gaby, then 18, later married Gwen, nearly 50 years ago. He had been "very shocked" to read newspaper reports of Gaby's search for him.

He said: "I had told my wife all about it. It happened before I met her. I had not told my two daughters, but when I did tell them they said not to worry, and that everyone had skeletons in their cupboard."

Girlfriend Gaby and the lost lover, Frank Shaw



If you've got a bigger than average garden then you'll be interested in Flymo's range of bigger than normal mowers. Available as either push or self propelled, they all have a large 18 inch cutting width, powerful petrol engines and 50 litre grass bags. They offer more value and reliability than many similar sized mowers, starting at around £179.99 and coming with a 10 year bodywork guarantee. For more information fly around to your nearest stockist. Freephone 0800 174 791 to find out where they are.

هكذا من الاهالي

ELECTION 97

‘New Britain, according to Labour, is filled with happy families in the sort of snap we all love to send to granny’

- **The Labour Party Manifesto in full – see pullout in section 2**
- **Labour's Northern babes – page 14**
- **Sinn Fein's sinister style of campaigning – page 15**

‘We came for some privacy... it's spoiled things a bit’

Gretna Green bride who met John Major yesterday

Look out, the chicken has landed

SIMON WALKER

Who are you calling chicken? The morning confrontation entertains photographers as the rival birds have their first flap

CHRIS HARRIS

GIEYS AIBREK (REUTER)

The fox, the rhino, and the bears get into the act: surprisingly, some were complaining that politics was becoming trivial

The election turned into a real pantomime yesterday when a succession of *party supporters and protesters* tried to make their points dressed in animal suits. The idea was not a complete success for anyone along the campaign trail. **Ben Macintyre** witnessed events

SERIOUS politics got the bird yesterday as two chickens fought over party *honours. Along the way, a pair of bears*, a fox and a rhinoceros also joined the growing circus on the campaign trail. It was that sort of a day.

First there was the 6ft pantomime chicken created by the Tories *to follow* Tony Blair and point up their claim that *he had* "chickened out" of a TV debate. It was then faced with a headless rival intended to demonstrate Conservative election panic.

In a bizarre scene at 8.30am, the *headless pro-Labour chicken (later* identified as *Daily Mirror* reporter David Pilditch, son of the disc-jockey "Diddy" David Hamilton) arrived at Tory Central Office intending to upstage the Tory bird as it was *officially* released *for the first* time.

Alex Aiken, the Conservatives' chief press officer, objected to the presence of the Opposition bird, and a brief scuffle *ensued. The Tory chicken (containing the* musician Noel Flanagan) faced its decapitated competitor and the two performed a strange slow cockfight on Abbingdon Green, opposite Parliament, to shouts of "peck 'im" *from the assembled* photographers.

Two 6ft bears, whose symbolism still remains obscure, had meanwhile appeared in front of the Institute of Civil Engineers, *where Labour* was *launching* its manifesto. They claimed to be from the Bear Alliance and were protesting that the election was turning into a circus.

When asked where they had come *from, they would only say cryptically*: "The woods."

Mr Blair then had to face a rhinoceros, possibly the most bizarre addition to the day's menagerie. It was standing outside *the Bayswater shopping centre, where the* Labour leader had gone to distribute copies of the manifesto. The *rhino* appeared to be suffering from a rare dermatological condition, and was thus *rather gloomy*.

Initially taciturn, after close questioning, the pachyderm with a strong South African accent also revealed itself to be an ironic comment on the trivialisation of politics.

"My complaint is about the level of political debate, which is becoming ludicrously cheapened by a lot of people dressing up as animals," it said, before wandering off mournfully down Queensway, presumably in search of a spin-doctor or, perhaps more urgently, a skin doctor.

By nowthe political procession had been joined by a fox — another contribution affiliated to the *Daily Mirror* — and set off in pursuit of the Tory chicken, which was in turn flying to Scotland to *intercept Mr Blair on the next stage of his* campaign.

As the Labour campaign flew to Edinburgh, Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary, said: "We like the chicken. It is only a *matter of* time before it gets on the bus. We think the chicken is a potential leader of the Conservative Party."

On arrival in Scotland the Labour team headed straight to Stirling, constituency of Conservative Michael Forsyth, whose *majority of just 236 votes makes him one* of the country's most seriously endangered species. Early reports indicated that the chicken had landed, and was spotted outside a Stirling school holding up a *placard demanding that* Mr Blair "answer the west Lothian question" and revealing a political accuity rare for his breed.

The pro-Labour fox and the Tory *chicken met up again as Tony Blair did* a walkabout in the Stirling shopping precinct. The two creatures briefly tussled in front of Marks & Spencers before they were bundled away by visibly unamused *Labour Party officials and Special Branch* officers.

By the end of the day, the Tory chicken would suffer the traditional fate of such creatures, when its costume head was *twisted off by a Stirling teenager, who ran* away with it. The thief was pursued by Stirling police, cautioned for breach of the peace and made to return the trophy.

Mr Campbell said that Mr and Mrs *Blair had invited the Tory chicken to* dinner in Glasgow tonight, but that his Tory managers *had* refused, saying *he* would be roosting overnight back in London. "The chicken chickened out," *said Mr Campbell, proving that even in* the barnyard the spin continues.

The carnival of the animals has added some peculiar but welcome colour to the campaign. But sadly the life expectancy of the various beasts is short.The *moment* the squawking, flapping or grunting multitude *shows* signs of turning into thundering boars, they will be sent, summarily, to the slaughterhouse.

Additional reporting by Stephen Farrell

Artificial flavours and nothing to bite into

W*hat plans* have Tories made for the possibility *that* on the eve of poll, the struggling young actor inside this *chicken* sells to the *Daily Mirror* for £5,000 his account of the bird's travels?

Stalking Tony Blair, he may come to admire him. Polling day brings headlines in every tabloid: "Free-range chicken votes Labour". Never mind. If the rumours of a Labour U-turn on hunting prove true, the fox *may* defect to the Liberal Democrats.

Two bears arrived outside the hall where Tony Blair *was to unveil his manifesto* carrying placards. Inside it was also fancy dress. John Prescott was dressed up as the deputy leader of the Labour Party. *"Traditional* values in a modern setting," declared Tony Blair, (quoting Mr Prescott).

I looked at his deputy. My view of Prescott was partly *blocked by a bowl* of roses on the table. His head, in a frozen, old Labour grimace, *seemed to be emerging* from the petals. Traditional values in a modern setting.

Hanging from the walls behind him were five enormous blank banners in five colours. This was to introduce us to them. They were the synthetic shades of those Instant Whip puddings people buy for easy-to-make desserts: *artificial flavours* and nothing to get your teeth into.

These colours are to be used for Labour posters across Britain. Instead of changing *the message* on the posters, Labour's whizkids (who have taken advice *from the advertising* industry) will change the colours, frequently. Apparently this *will give* people the impression of change and movement, and gain *our* attention.

Reactionaries may feel *that if the posters had something to say*, that might also gain attention. But changing the colours *involves* less mental effort.

Listening to Mr Blair *was no effort*. He really had only one argument: that he would share *with Britain* his hopes, but could not offer a timetable because that would be *dishonest*. Under the banner of "honesty in politics" the Labour leader *is thus able to* make a virtue of paucity. Having flogged the words "promise", "vow" and "pledge" to death in his Party Conference speech last October, Mr *Blair* has now come up with "bond" and "trust" as new variations on the theme.

His speech put me in mind of Senator William McAdoo's assessment of Warren Harding. The President's speeches, said McAdoo, *left the impression* of an army of phrases moving over *the landscape in search* of an idea.

"Sometimes these meandering words would actually capture a straggling thought *and bear it triumphantly*, a prisoner in their midst, until it died of servitude and overwork," McAdoo said.

After the speech, he answered questions, pretending to choose from a sea of hands. "Adam Boulton, from Sky," he said, looking desperately around the auditorium *for him. The penny* dropped.

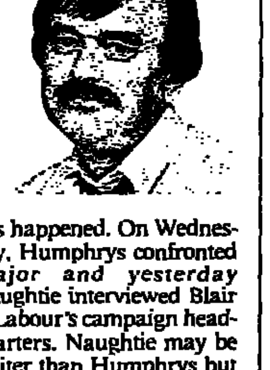
The Labour Leader has *perfected his* all-purpose answer to the question: Why has he changed Labour's policies?

"There's no going back to the past," he *declares*. As *though* beliefs change like the weather, beyond human control. *To be in favour of* capitalism in 1997 is as natural as to wear a lightweight *suit in summer*: a response to the environment.

Why is he a capitalist? Because this is 1997. Why was he a socialist in 1983? Because that was 1983, silly!

My hunch might be wrong: but *as I watched* Tony Blair fielding inquiries, I saw, quivering beneath *the surface* confidence, intellectual panic.

A lesson in who not to blame



Peter Barnard delves beneath the mutual politeness of James Naughtie's *Today* interview with Tony Blair

THE past two mornings have offered an opportunity *to compare and contrast the* styles of two men as they bid for our attention, and even our affection, amid a cacophony of lesser voices.

They may come *from* different backgrounds, but in middle age they find themselves on the same stage under the same *spotlight*.

So how are we to choose between John Humphrys and James Naughtie?

The difference between them is more a matter of style than content, almost as if they were politicians. *Humphrys is Welsh and* Naughtie is a Scot, therefore neither can be said to *have an innate affinity* with the Middle England vote that each solicits daily on Radio 4's *Today*.

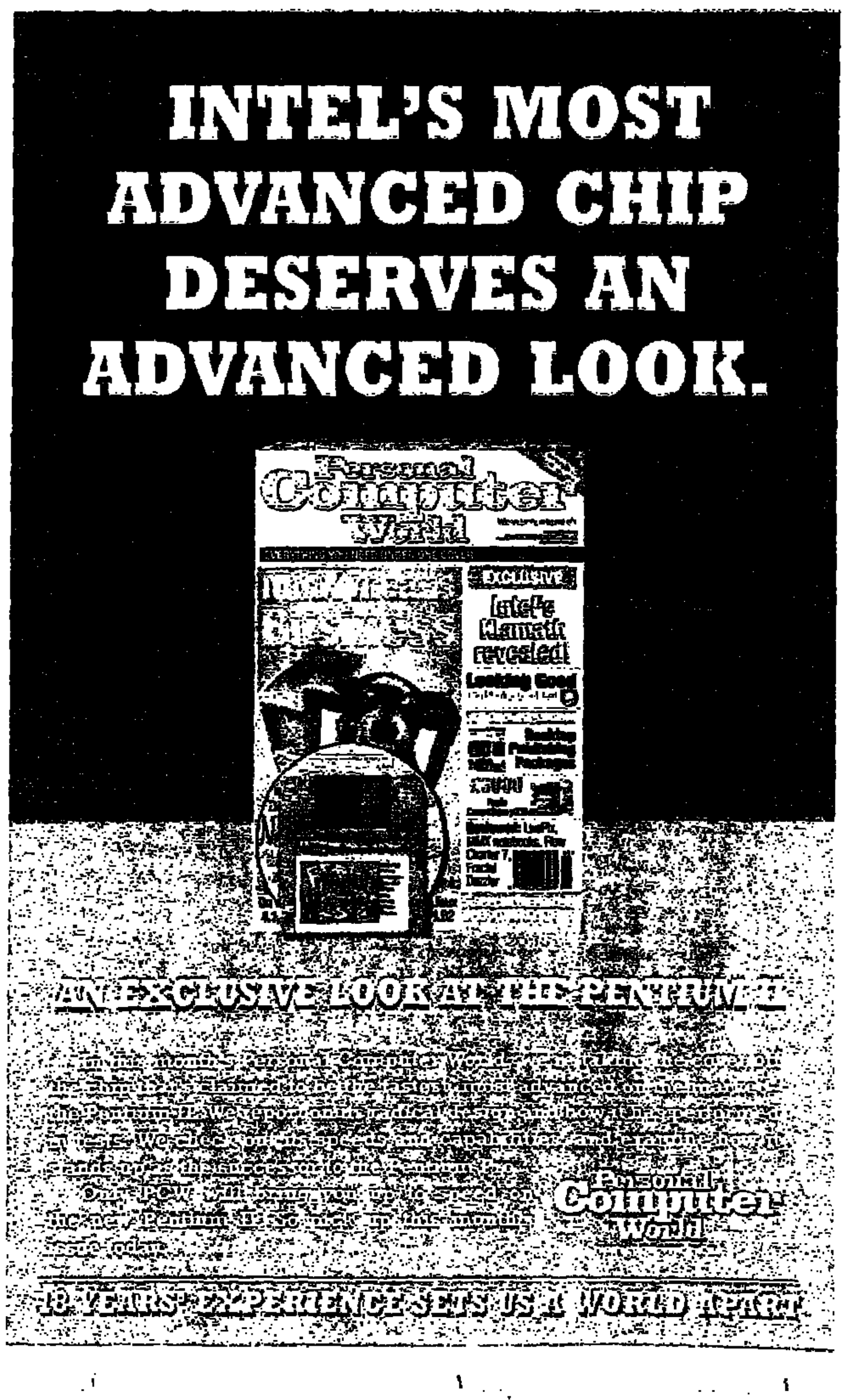
Humphrys is a bareknuckle interviewer, prone to interruptions of "Hang on a minute!" Naughtie is a gentler *soul*, as befits his other role as a music presenter. Humphrys is a *Souza march to Naughtie's* Chopin nocturne. Therefore Conservative Central Office would *prefer* to have Humphrys let loose on Tony Blair while Naughtie tackled John Major.

The reverse, of course, has happened. On Wednesday, Humphrys confronted *Major and yesterday* Naughtie interviewed Blair at Labour's campaign headquarters. Naughtie may be politer than Humphrys but he is no less tenacious.

Naughtie began yesterday by asking *Blair* about that great non-event, the television debate. Every informed *elector* and his dog knows that a party which is 20 points ahead in the polls would be mad to risk all that with one slip on national *television*. Yet *Blair* could tell Naughtie that the Tories "changed their negotiating *position*", *that they* are "engaging in playground insults".

And, as he showed yesterday, there is one key lesson he can teach Major: even if you think the media is to blame, never blame the media. On Wednesday Major had railed at Humphrys for "hijacking" the *interview to talk about sleaze*.

On a couple of occasions yesterday Blair made it *clear that when scare stories* about Labour appeared, it was because the Tories had called a press conference or leaked something to reporters. Anti-Labour stories were all got up, not by the media, but by the Tories.



INTEL'S MOST ADVANCED CHIP DESERVES AN ADVANCED LOOK.

AN EXCLUSIVE LOOK AT THE PENTIUM II

Personal Computer World

18 YEARS' EXPERIENCE SETS US A WORLD APART

No One's
CELEBRATING the
MILLENNIUM
UNTIL WE
Say So

At 00:00 GMT, it will be 1,000 days until we move from this millennium into the next.

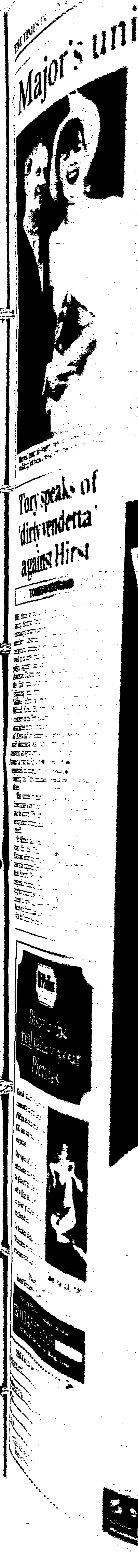
And Accurist, the UK's top selling watch manufacturer, have been entrusted with the task of making the clock which will count us down.

The Accurist Millennium Count Down Clock will start counting every millionth of a second until midnight on the 31st December, 1999. Its atomic mechanism and global co-ordination by eight orbiting satellites guarantee *absolute accuracy.*

It will sit directly on the Meridian Line in the Old Royal Observatory at Greenwich, chosen at the Washington Conference of 1884 as the location of the official beginning of the Universal Day, the exact point at which the new millennium will begin.

So we'll be letting you know when you can start your celebrations. And it won't be a millionth *of a second too soon.*

Accurist
MEAN TIME



THE TIMES

Major's uni

Tory speaks of 'dirty vendetta' against Hirst

هكذا من الأعلى

Major's union blues colour newlyweds' big day

The real thing: the Rigneys came to Gretna for a quiet wedding, but found a media army following Mr Major

Mr Major chose Gretna to hammer home his stance on Anglo-Scottish union. **Charles Bremner** found a shaky wedlock with voters

TWO marriages were celebrated yesterday at the Old Blacksmith's of Gretna Green, "world famous" refuge of elopers down the centuries. Michael and Majella Rigney came from Londonderry in Northern Ireland for a quiet registrar's nuptial and blessing in the legendary Scottish smithy. At the same moment, John Major came with full media army in tow to celebrate the union of the crowns and take a symbol-laden swipe at Tony Blair's alleged plans to dismantle it.

"We came over here for some quiet and privacy, but it has all been taken over by this crowd. It's spoiled things a bit," said Mr Rigney as cameramen skirmished for the day's tartan photo-opportunity. The tarnished idyll of the new Mr and Mrs Rigney was a small price to pay for Mr Major as he dipped his toe a few yards across the border into Scotland's electoral fray, in a Brigadoon-style setting complete with piper, kilts and souvenir shop.

"I'm here to symbolise a marriage that has lasted 290 years and I hope will be good for another 290 and beyond. A marriage that suits both partners well," the Prime Minister said. To make clear that he was not merely talking about family values or his party's shaky wedlock with the voters, he posed in a near gale with Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary of State, clutching a Union Flag with the Scottish banner.

Alongside stood the survivors of that other battered union, the Scottish Conservative Party. This was embodied in the formidable shape of Annabel Goldie, who took over the chair after the resignation of Sir Michael Hirst over an alleged past dalliance with a man. Dumfries, the Gretna constituency, is one of the handful of Scottish Tory seats which the party hopes to hold, but morale was audibly low. "We've sunk so low we can only go up," Douglas Younger, candidate for Roxburgh and Berwickshire confided to a colleague.

The Sassenach demeanour and prime ministerial pinstripe clashed only a little with the local scenery when Mr Major posed beside Willie Marshall, the Gretna piper. Resplendent in full regalia, Mr Marshall, a Gretna fixture for 44 years, droned swiftly into *Scotland the Brave* as Mr Major approached for the picture. No admirer of Mr Major, the piper said he would have preferred to have serenaded him with a rendition of *Over the Hills and Far Away*.

Robert the Bruce may have been born only a few miles north, but there were no modern Bravehearts to spoil the soundbites as Mr Major laid into Labour's devolution plans. They were the product of fashionable pseudo-Scottish minds "down in London". Passing over past difficulties of Jacobite and other origin, the Prime Minister said there had never in all those 290 years been an election that mattered so much to the people of Scotland. Labour's plans for a Scottish Parliament would not only unravel the kingdom, but would impose a 15 per cent tax rise.

Dumfries was ideal for tweaking this raw nerve because much of its population works in Carlisle and is not happy at the prospect of a Scottish surtax if Dumfries becomes a zone *frontalière*, like an off-licence in a Channel port.

"They'll be putting up a frontier post and asking for passports next," a local said.

True Scottish interests, the Prime Minister insisted, lay with the Tories. "I passionately care about making sure that this union survives," he said, making the day's pun on Labour's "contract" being a "con trick". That wheeze, in which the Labour leader circulated his manifesto in the form of a personal manuscript, was a tribute to Mr Blair's Scottish education at Fettes College in Edinburgh.

"It's a pity that he didn't learn to do joined-up thinking after the joined-up writing."

Across the frontier in Carlisle, Mr Major gave a pugnacious show for more than 1,000 people from the extending platform of his battle bus, successor to his soap box. There was only one slip-up — the name of the shop where the bus drew up — The Old Town Hall Fudge Shop.

SIMON WALKER

A forgery: Mr Major brought Norma to Gretna, but the union he espoused was England with Scotland

Tory speaks of 'dirty vendetta' against Hirst

TORIES IN SCOTLAND

THE depth of the division among Scottish Tories was revealed yesterday when party members described how anonymous documents were used in a dirty tricks campaign against the former chairman. Talking openly for the first time about the infighting that forced Sir Michael Hirst to resign, Richard Cook, 25, a former member of the Tory executive committee in the constituency of Eastwood in Strathclyde, said documents had started arriving anonymously at his home as soon as Sir Michael expressed an interest in becoming the Tory candidate there.

"The source of many of these things I don't think will ever be known. They arrived in mysterious circumstances," he said.

Sir Michael had hoped to stand for the Tories in Eastwood after the resignation of the outgoing Tory MP, Allan Stewart. Sir Michael resigned last Saturday admitting "past indiscretions". He is alleged to have told senior Tories of a homosexual affair with his former personal assistant. Mr Cook said he had received telephone calls making clear that some people were out to get Sir Michael. "They were phoning up and being openly hostile, saying this would not benefit the party long-term.

"A number of people obviously have various reasons, reasons sometimes that they weren't prepared to divulge, where you can only presume it's a personal and very bitter matter, and other people who openly said that Sir Michael had never done them any favours," he said.

Speaking on Radio 4's *The World at One*, Mr Cook said the vendetta was personal, and that he was not aware of political opposition to Sir Michael from any section of the party.

Another member of the Eastwood executive, an Hutchison, said Sir Michael's enemies had been prepared to sacrifice party interest to get him out. He said they seized the general election as their first opportunity since Sir Michael's appointment as Tory chairman in Scotland to do him "serious damage".

Phillips
INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

Discover the real value of your *Pictures*

Good quality pictures are currently in great demand at Phillips auctions throughout the UK and are realising excellent sale prices.

Our specialists, at over 20 salerooms nationwide, would be pleased to offer you advice and a free auction valuation on your pictures, antiques or collectables.

For further details either call the number below or complete and return the coupon.

Sold for £8,700

Phillips. Founded 1796
Local Expertise. International Experience.

For your FREE auction valuation call today
☎ 0345 573103 Quoting ref:TTBP/01
Our lines are open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

YES, I would like a FREE auction valuation.
Description of item(s) ____
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Title ____ Initial ____ Surname ____
Address ____
Postcode ____ Tel ____

Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0AS.
Internet: http://www.phillips-auctions.com TTBP/01

TAKE THE SAVINGS CHALLENGE FOR A WINNING RATE!

Are you saving MONEY or is your bank?

Account Type	Investment	Nationwide	Barclays	Lloyds	Midland
Instant Access	£1,000	3·00%	2·30%	2·35%	2·74%
Notice Account	£10,000	4·65%*	4·20%	4·30%	4·35%

*An additional 0.75% annual bonus is payable if no withdrawals are made, giving a total rate of 5.40%
Rates effective from 2nd April 1997. SOURCE: Blay's MoneyMaster

Call free on 0500 30 20 10 (quoting ref SC06)
Mon - Fri, 8am - 8pm. Weekends/Bank Holidays, 9am - 6pm.

Have you ever wondered why it feels so much better to have your savings in a building society rather than in a bank?

Our table should give you a little hint. We're not criticising the banks. After all, they have their shareholders to satisfy and that can be an expensive business.

At Nationwide we have chosen to remain a building society, because it means we can plough more of our profits into benefits for the customer. It is our aim to offer consistently better value on your savings, both now and in the long term.

Take our Bonus 60 notice account – each month you have the flexibility of making one instant withdrawal of up to £5,000 with no penalty. And if you choose not to make any withdrawals during the year we will give you an additional 0.75% annual interest bonus.

So now you know why it feels so much better. Why save with a bank, when you can laugh all the way to the building society?

To see if you can earn a better rate take the Nationwide Savings Challenge. Call us now or simply pop into your local branch.

Nationwide

Find us on the Internet at http://www.nationwide.co.uk

SPONSORS OF Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

All rates quoted are gross p.a. as at 2nd April 1997. Rates may vary, but are correct at the time of going to press. The interest rates quoted assume all the account terms and conditions have been complied with. Full details of our accounts are available in our branches. Income tax will usually be deducted from the interest at the appropriate rate unless you are registered to receive interest gross as required by the Inland Revenue. The products being compared are: Nationwide's CashBuilder and Bonus 60; Barclays' Instant Savings and 90 Day Savings, Lloyds' Instant Savings Account and Investment Account, Midland's Saver Plus Account and Exchequer 90 Day. Nationwide's notice product is a 60 day notice account whereas all of the competitor accounts quoted are 90 day notice products. The Nationwide Bonus 60 notice account rate shown excludes the bonus. Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme and subscribes to the Code of Banking Practice. Nationwide Building Society, Pipers Way, Swindon SN38 1NW.

Building new Jerusalem wipes smile off Blair's face

Brian MacArthur sees Labour play its leader as the *strongest card in a serious party game*

ON THE cover of the Conservative manifesto there is a snapshot of John Major wearing a suit, pink and white striped shirt, and polka-dot dark-blue tie, and smiling as if Surrey, his favourite cricket team, had just beaten Lancashire by an *innings at the Oval.* He is still smiling, hair slightly ruffled, as he introduces the *manifesto on the first inside* page.

Tony Blair has chosen a *very different image* — by Lord Snowdon — for the cover of the Labour manifesto. Instead of a snapshot, Blair's face, unretouched and half-hidden in shadow, *is* the cover. He wears an open-necked blue denim shirt.

Blair is presented as the brooding man of destiny, his look stern and determined, the famous toothy smile well hidden. Where Major's eyes look straight at you, Blair's are somewhere over your shoulder and peering towards a new Jerusalem where "Britain deserves better" — as they still are, with *just a hint of a smile,* as he introduces the manifesto on the first inside page.

Labour Party staff have been working on the manifesto for almost a year — it grew *from the New Labour, New Life for Britain* manifesto submitted to the party and voted through by members last year — and their decision has clearly been to promote Blair — "the Leader" — as Labour's main attraction. There are two *photographs of Major in the* Tory manifesto; Labour has ten of Blair.

They have been carefully chosen. He is seen with three world statesmen — Nelson Mandela (where we do see the famous smile), President Clinton and President Chirac. *There are three with* smiling children. Unlike the Tory manifesto, where Major was the only politician featured, a member of the Shadow Cabinet, John Prescott, is given the Page Three slot. The new Britain, according to new Labour, is a *Britain of happy families* who cherish their children, and who are shown in 25 *photographs, some featured* twice.

They are the sort of snaps that we love to send to granny, who gets one look-in with grandpa, studying the *family album.* The families shop at the supermarket, travel by train, enjoy seaside carousels, *play in the parks* and marry in white in church.

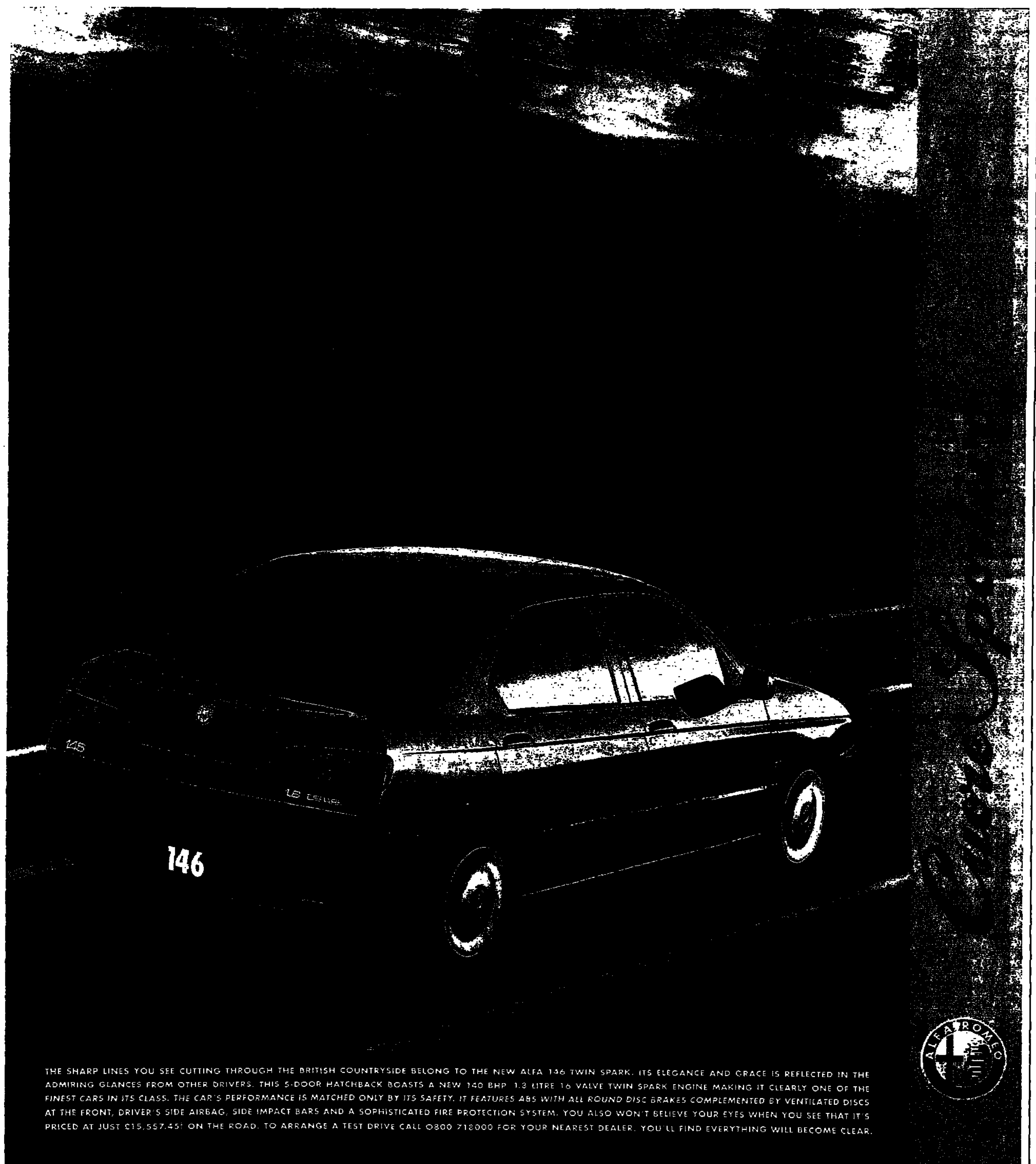
At school, where there is a sprinkling of black faces, the pupils wear uniform (with *red pullovers*), but, *surprisingly*, do not play soccer: the biggest sporting picture is of a boy *playing* rugby — though we do also get Blair (twice) with Alex Ferguson, manager of every right-thinking schoolboy's favourite football team, Manchester United.

Over the past two months, many hands contributed to drafting the final version of the manifesto, including Peter Mandelson, the campaign manager, Alastair Campbell, Blair's press secretary, Jonathan Powell, his chief of staff, and David Miliband and Matthew Taylor of Blair's policy team.

There was design input *from the publishing* manager Jocelyn Hillman. He briefed the design consultancy *Giant,* whose clients include the Design Council and Vauxhall, for the final product. Blair was revising the draft in his own hand until last weekend.

The Tory manifesto's 56 pages cost £2. Labour offers 40 pages for £1.99, with much more solid text and none of the graphics or computer-assisted montages.

Labour also offers braille and cassette versions (0171 *277* 3410) and mentions its website (address: *http ://www.labourwin97.org.uk*). The Tories have *similar* facilities, not listed in their manifesto (address: *www.conservative-party.org.uk*).



THE SHARP LINES YOU SEE CUTTING THROUGH THE BRITISH COUNTRYSIDE BELONG TO THE NEW ALFA 146 TWIN SPARK. ITS ELEGANCE AND GRACE IS REFLECTED IN THE ADMIRING GLANCES FROM OTHER DRIVERS. THIS 5-DOOR HATCHBACK BOASTS A NEW 140 BHP 1.8 LITRE 16 VALVE TWIN SPARK ENGINE MAKING IT CLEARLY ONE OF THE FINEST CARS IN ITS CLASS. THE CAR'S PERFORMANCE IS MATCHED ONLY BY ITS SAFETY. IT FEATURES ABS WITH ALL ROUND DISC BRAKES COMPLEMENTED BY VENTILATED DISCS AT THE FRONT, DRIVER'S SIDE AIRBAG, SIDE IMPACT BARS AND A SOPHISTICATED FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM. YOU ALSO WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES WHEN YOU SEE THAT IT'S PRICED AT JUST £15,557.45† ON THE ROAD. TO ARRANGE A TEST DRIVE CALL 0800 718000 FOR YOUR NEAREST DEALER. YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING WILL BECOME CLEAR.

THE ALFA 146 TWIN SPARK.
BLURRED COUNTRYSIDE NOW INCLUDED.

DEALER 3-YEAR ALFACARE WARRANTY SELENIA

Internet: http://www.alfa[illegible]o.uk

CAR FEATURED IS THE 1.8 16V TWIN SPARK. ALSO AVAILABLE 1.6 16V TWIN SPARK. †ON THE ROAD PRICE INCLUDES £595.00 FOR DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE.

Lofty aims, but where will cash come from?

PETER RIDDELL

Labour has discovered how not to lose elections. But it does not yet have a convincing strategy for office. Yesterday's manifesto, launched with a bravura performance by Tony Blair, is a *mirror image of the Conservative* one in its strengths, and weaknesses.

The Labour manifesto is stronger on campaigning than governing, whereas the Tory one is more of a management plan than an election strategy.

Labour has certainly moved a long way since the 1980s. Mr Blair's advisers helpfully provided a *briefing paper comparing* the current manifesto with previous ones.

In the 1983 manifesto, famously dubbed the longest suicide note in history, the party admitted that its "proposals add up to a considerable increase in public spending"; said that the heart of its programme was a "new partnership *with the trade* unions"; and promised to "repeal the divisive Tory employment laws", withdraw from the European Community, reintroduce exchange controls, introduce discretionary price controls, establish a national investment bank and cancel Trident. These pledges were gradually abandoned or watered *down the* 1987 *and* 1992 manifestos and the transformation was completed yesterday. Mr Blair was *candid* about past Labour mistakes (such as its failure to tackle the trade unions in the late 1960s) and argued that the creation of "new" Labour was "some earnest of the trust I want the country to place in me and my team".

Mr Blair left no doubt of his aspirations — education as *number one priority; not raising* the basic or top rate of income tax; welfare state reform; ending a two-tier health service; restoring faith in Britain's political system. We do not, he said, "want merely to replace Government ministers. We want to change the values and priorities of Government". The problem is not ends, or even will. It is means. Labour's figures do not add up. Gordon Brown deserves credit for shedding Labour's old tax-and-spending image and he has ruled out most, *though not* all, *uncosted* pledges. But the manifesto is full of grand-sounding aspirations *about improving education* and health which cannot be reconciled with Labour's *fiscal austerity.*

It is not good enough for Labour to say it is just trying to make a *start.* Its specific pledges on class sizes and National Health Service waiting *lists are so gimmicky* and marginal as to be misleading about the amounts of money *involved.* Labour's promise to stick to the announced spending ceilings for departments *for the* next two years is sensible as a way of lowering expectations and disciplining incoming Labour *ministers,* especially as they did not come up with savings in opposition. However, existing Tory plans rely on proposals for privatisation, reform of the social security system and the like — measures which Labour has opposed. Existing sales mean that the required proceeds are already sure for the coming year, but there is a £1.5 billion gap for the following year.

Admittedly, the Tories have not said where the money will *come from, though they at* least have a track record of meeting this target.

Mr Blair failed to answer the point when I put it to him at yesterday's launch news conference. No wonder Mr Brown is keen not to rule out *possible privatisations, such* as that of the national air traffic control system, and I'll *bet that the Tote will be back* on the agenda. Mr Blair is right that the proposed measures to reduce unemployment should help, but it would be unwise to count on this money in the short term.

Moreover, savings from reducing unemployment should go to cutting *public borrowing. There are* always loose ends in any manifesto: in Labour's also over the accounting of the release of local authority capital receipts for building that *will add* to borrowing, while the Tories have *some* ragged edges in their proposals for transferring income tax allowances. The amounts may be relatively small, but they are indicative of tensions and pressures of public spending and borrowing that *will* face any new government.

A Blair government could *make a difference, not just* over constitutional reform but also in its economic and social *priorities. But* Labour's current minimalism risks producing such small changes as to *disappoint the hopes* created by its "Britain deserves better" slogan. At present, the dilemmas of government come second to the priorities of campaigning.

over 25?
car insurance
more than £200?
you need help.
↓
0800 11 22 33
help

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Blair threatens a tough response to union trouble

REPORTS BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

LABOUR MANIFESTO

TONY BLAIR *made plain* yesterday that he would have no truck *with the leaders of* striking unions who believed they could "get *tough*" *with a* government led by him.

"They will face an absolute implacable toughness if there is any talk *of that sort at all,*" he told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme yesterday *morning*. "I didn't spend three years turning the Labour Party into a modern party that is true to the principles of progress and justice to go backwards.

"We are not going back to those days. We paid a heavy price for it in the past. We are not paying that price again," he said.

Mr Blair's words, shortly before the publication of the Labour *manifesto*, were intended to blunt the renewed *Tory offensive over the unions*. At the press conference at which the manifesto was launched, he said that his earlier statement had not been made out of machismo. "I say it to make clear to people that anybody who believes the next Labour government will return to the past is wrong."

The Labour leader has pledged to retain the basic elements of Tory legislation on union ballots, picketing and industrial action. However, *the Conservatives have* attacked Mr Blair's promise to give *unions the* right to recognition, should a majority of the *"relevant workforce" in a* workplace vote in a ballot to be *represented by a union, and it* became clear last week that Labour *had left a lot of* thinking to be done on the practicalities.

The commitment on recognition duly appeared in the *manifesto yesterday*, setting off another Tory assault led by Michael Heseltine. Labour's promise was short on detail, saying only that the arrangement would promote "stable and orderly industrial relations" and that there would be full consultation on "the most effective means of implementing the proposal".

Labour has still not answered what the phrase "relevant workforce" *means*. Party sources have said both that different units of the workforce could be balloted separately and that in some cases an employer would want different plants to take part in a single all-embracing ballot.

Disagreements would go to the Advisory Concilation and Arbitration Service and then to the Central Arbritration *Committee, which is in future* to be headed by a judge. *However, Mr Blair has been* careful to emphasise that the measures are not an absolute priority. They may not appear in the first Queen's Speech.

Labour has also pledged to introduce trade union recognition at GCHQ, the government communications centre at Cheltenham.

☐ Political parties would have to declare all donations over £5,000 and foreign funding of *parties would be banned*, under a Labour government, *the party pledged yesterday* (Valerie Elliott writes).

A Labour government would also ask the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life to consider how to regulate funding of political parties. New powers would be given to the Audit Commission to ensure high standards in local government.

The Labour Party manifesto appears in full today in Section 2. The Liberal Democrat manifesto will appear on Monday.

Bill Morris, John Edmonds, Roger Lyons, Rodney Bickerstaffe, and Lew Adams, they are said to be smoothing Labour's campaign

Union leaders deny paper's conspiracy of silence claim

UNION leaders yesterday dismissed accusations that they had struck a secret pact of silence to smooth Labour's election campaign. But they also refused to respond to Tony Blair's latest attack on the union movement in which he promised "implacable toughness" in the *face of unrest*.

The leaders of five of the biggest *unions, representing 3.5 million people*, had been accused of shunning major public appearances, statements and speeches to avoid any clashes with Labour that would give the Conservatives a political advantage.

John Edmonds, head of the GMB general union, which represents workers *in industries from aerospace to the* NHS, said: "It is ridiculous to suggest *there is a conspiracy*. This election is about politics, not union leaders. We will be doing our best to help Labour."

Lew Adams, who led last year's dispute on London's Underground as head of the rail union Aslef, said: "It is complete nonsense that there is a secret deal. Unions will take a view on what *suits their objectives*." Mr Adams would not comment on Mr Blair's attack.

Bill Morris, leader *of the Transport* and General Workers' Union, said that, far from keeping silent, he would be making speeches as normal around the country, and challenged the *Daily Mail*, which had published the allegations, to let him tell its readers why they should vote Labour. Mr Morris would not respond to Mr Blair's warning.

Roger Lyons, head of the Manufacturing Science and Finance Union, was on holiday yesterday. But a spokesman said that the idea he would stay mute for a month was "laughable". On the hardening of Labour's attitude, he said: "Confrontations are less likely to happen now. *There is far less national pay* bargaining and the culture is different to that of the 1970s."

Rodney Bickerstaffe, head of Unison, Britain's biggest union representing 1.3 million people, declined to comment on the allegations.

Child benefit for the over-16s to be reviewed

SOCIAL SECURITY

THE manifesto does not include a pledge to scrap child benefit for 16 to 18-*year-olds, despite enthusiastic backing* for the policy by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown last year.

The proposal, one of the most radical dreamt up by the Labour leadership, was dubbed the "teenage tax" by the Tories when it was proposed last April. But the manifesto instead fudges the issue by stating that a Labour government would review finance and maintenance for children aged over 16 to encourage more children to stay on at school.

Mr Brown set up a working party six months ago to look into how the savings from child benefit for this age group — potentially £600 million — could be channelled into educational allowances for poorer groups. But the working party has failed to come up with any cost effective, or electorally palatable solutions. Aides to Gordon Brown yesterday insisted that the scheme would be revived under a Labour government as part of a review of post-16 education. But it is clear that despite the Shadow Chancellor's determination to keep the plan alive, Mr Blair was worried about going into the election with an unpopular policy that would have hit Middle England voters.

The manifesto instead pledges that the party will retain child benefit from *birth to 16, uprated at least in line with* inflation.

Another area where Labour is unclear on policy is over the future of the basic state pension. The party's existing policy is to retain the state pension, uprated with inflation, but backed by a second stakeholder pension. The manifesto repeats this policy but then argues that the whole issue would be reviewed in government.

Brown admits he may need to sell air traffic system

THE ECONOMY

GORDON BROWN said yesterday that Labour would consider privatising the National Air Traffic System after he was forced to concede that there was a £1½ billion hole in his spending plans.

The admission came after Tony Blair was asked what Labour would do about the privatisation money which the Tories had planned to raise in the next two years. He claimed that the money would come through from privatisations which were already under way. But *later* Mr Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, admitted that *this did not apply to the* second year, 1998-99.

Asked on BBC Radio 4's The World at One whether there *would be a £1½ billion gap in* 1998-99 if Labour did not raise *more money* through its own privatisations, Mr Brown said: "Yes, but the Conservatives have not told us where the gap is to be filled."

Asked whether he would privatise the air traffic system, which was expected to raise £½ billion, Mr Brown said: "Well, we have said we will look at this." He added that that privatisation on its own would not raise £1½ billion. But asked again whether the air traffic system would have to be sold to *fill the gap, he* said: "Of course, I haven't *ruled that out, and you have* got to make a judgment as to *whether* the revenues you lose are outweighed by the capital returns that you get."

The Tories exploited Labour's admission, claiming that the party had a £12 billion black hole. This includes £60 million from changes to single parent benefit, which Labour has previously said it would repeal.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, accused Mr Blair of bowing to the union's tax and spend agenda. "Mr Brown threatens hefty tax rises in an emergency budget *within weeks. Why does he* need them? Mr Blair wants to *keep our plans but not follow* our policies," said Mr *Heseltine*. "He *knows* the unions and the Left will stop *him bringing in privatisation* receipts or reforming social security."

Labour aides later said Mr Brown would consider any privatisations, provided they were "safe". They said that the Tories had to be much clearer about their privatisation receipts before Labour would decide whether to accept them.

The only privatisations which Labour has set its face against are London Underground and Channel 4, but yesterday *Mr Brown's* aides seemed prepared to consider *any sell-offs. They also* conceded that they would keep to Tory plans to raise £480 million through private finance in the National Health Service.

COMPUTERS MADE SIMPLE! AT TOYS"R"US

intel inside pentium

ONLY £999 inc. VAT

BUY NOW PAY APRIL'98* (10% deposit required)

INTEREST FREE! IF FULLY PAID BY APRIL '98*

INTERNET READY!

FUJITSU T200 Internet Ready 16Mb, Pentium® Processor 120Mhz

£999 inc VAT!

£850.21 EX VAT

- ▲ Superb High-spec. Family Multimedia PC
- ▲ Pentium® processor 120Mhz ▲ 16Mb RAM
- ▲ 14" Monitor ▲ Internet Ready
- ▲ 1.2Gb Hard Disk ▲ 8 Speed CD-ROM Drive
- ▲ 33.6Kbps Fax Modem
- ▲ 12 software titles including: MS Windows '95, MS Works 4.0, Hutchinson's Multimedia Encyclopedia '97, Attica Interactive World Atlas

FAMILY MULTIMEDIA MEGACENTRES!

WE HAVE SELECTED A TOP RANGE OF NEW GENERATION, HIGH SPEC, TOP BRAND MULTIMEDIA PC'S TO MEET ALL YOUR FAMILY'S REQUIREMENTS WITH:

- ▲ 16 MEGABYTES OF RAM OR HIGHER
- ▲ PENTIUM P120 PROCESSOR OR BETTER
- ▲ ALL INTERNET READY
- ▲ FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL ADVICE
- ▲ EASY PAYMENT TERMS
- ▲ SIMPLY PLUG IN TO PLAY AND LEARN
- ▲ FREE 12 MONTH IN-HOME SERVICING
- ▲ VOTED BEST COMPUTER RETAILER BY PC PLUS MAGAZINE+

NEW HI-SPEC MULTIMEDIA PC's FEATURING PENTIUM PROCESSORS WITH MMX™ TECHNOLOGY

FUJITSU MYRICA P166XD 16Mb, Internet Ready 166Mhz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology

£1399 inc VAT BUY NOW PAY APRIL'98* (10% deposit required) INTEREST FREE! IF FULLY PAID BY APRIL '98*

- ▲ State-of-the-Art, Multimedia PC with built in fax modem
- ▲ Pentium® processor 166Mhz MMX™ ▲ 16Mb RAM ▲ 14" Monitor ▲ Internet Ready
- ▲ 1.7Gb Hard Disk ▲ 16 Speed CD-ROM Drive ▲ 33.6Kbps Fax Modem
- ▲ 17 software titles including: MS Windows™ '95, MS Works 4.0, Ultimate Human Body 2.0 (MMX™), Hutchinson's Multimedia Encyclopedia '97, Space Station Simulator (MMX™)

FUJITSU INDIANA P166XT 16Mb, Internet Ready 166Mhz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology

£1599 inc VAT BUY NOW PAY APRIL'98* (10% deposit required) INTEREST FREE! IF FULLY PAID BY APRIL '98*

- ▲ High-spec, superb quality Multimedia PC
- ▲ Pentium® processor 166Mhz MMX™ ▲ 16Mb RAM ▲ 15" Monitor ▲ Internet Ready
- ▲ 2.0Gb Hard Disk ▲ 16 Speed CD-ROM Drive ▲ 33.6Kbps Fax Modem
- ▲ 17 software titles including: MS Windows™ '95, MS Works 4.0, Ultimate Human Body 2.0 (MMX™), Hutchinson's Multimedia Encyclopedia '97, Space Station Simulator (MMX™)

FUJITSU MYRICA P200XT 32Mb, Internet Ready 200Mhz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology

£1999 inc VAT BUY NOW PAY APRIL'98* (10% deposit required) INTEREST FREE! IF FULLY PAID BY APRIL '98*

- ▲ State-of-the-Art, Multimedia PC with built in fax modem
- ▲ Pentium® processor 200Mhz MMX™ ▲ 32Mb RAM ▲ 17" Monitor ▲ Internet Ready
- ▲ 2.5Gb Hard Disk ▲ 16 Speed CD-ROM Drive ▲ 33.6Kbps Fax Modem
- ▲ 17 software titles including: MS Windows™ '95, MS Works 4.0, Ultimate Human Body 2.0 (MMX™), Hutchinson's Multimedia Encyclopedia '97, Space Station Simulator (MMX™)

PLUS OVER 400 CD-ROM SOFTWARE TITLES IN ALL STORES!

TOYS"R"US YOU CAN TRUST US BECAUSE WE ONLY SELL TOP BRAND PC's

56 STORES NATIONWIDE!

LONDON AREA HAYES ENFIELD CROYDON THURROCK BRENT CROSS BASILDON WOKING SOUTH & SOUTH EAST BASINGSTOKE BEDFORD OXFORD PORTSMOUTH LUTON HARLOW POOLE/BOURNEMOUTH READING STEVENAGE MEDWAY SOUTHAMPTON EAST ANGLIA IPSWICH PETERBOROUGH MIDLANDS SHREWSBURY COVENTRY SOLIHULL NOTTINGHAM DERBY BIRMINGHAM OLDBURY NORTHAMPTON LEICESTER HANLEY/STOKE SCOTLAND ABERDEEN EDINBURGH GLASGOW DUNDEE NORTH EAST TEESSIDE METRO CENTRE NORTH WEST ALTRINCHAM BOLTON CHESTER MANCHESTER STOCKPORT WARRINGTON PRESTON WALES & WEST SWINDON PLYMOUTH BRISTOL CARDIFF SWANSEA GLOUCESTER HUMBERSIDE & YORKS DONCASTER WAKEFIELD LINCOLN YORK SHEFFIELD LEEDS/BRADFORD HULL

TOYS"R"US IT'S WORTH THE JOURNEY! MON - SAT 'TIL 8PM* SUN 11 'TIL 5pm* Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee SUN 10 'TIL 6pm

*Credit Example: APR 27.8%

NOW AVAILABLE MICROSOFT HOME ESSENTIALS '97 5 great products combined at one amazing price MS Word '97, MS Works 4.0, MS World Atlas, MS Money '97 and MS Football ONLY £99.99

WE'LL MATCH ANY ADVERTISED PRICE LOW PRICE GUARANTEE

VIEW THE NEW TOYS "R" US INTERNET CATALOGUE ON: http://www.toysrus.co.uk

The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. All trademarks are acknowledged. +PC Plus rating 9/10 December '96.

Travel as many times as you like from £59.95 a year.

Take out American Express annual travel insurance and you can make £59.95 go a long way. Because one payment means you can take an unlimited number of trips throughout the year.

And now you don't have to be an American Express Cardmember to enjoy this extra security.

Example Travel Insurance Rates

	Individual Under 65's	Family 2 adults & 2 children
Single trip cover. Europe up to 17 days.	£23.45	£58.55
European annual cover. Up to 31 days per trip.	£59.95	£99.95
Worldwide annual cover. Up to 91 days per trip.	£94.95	£144.95

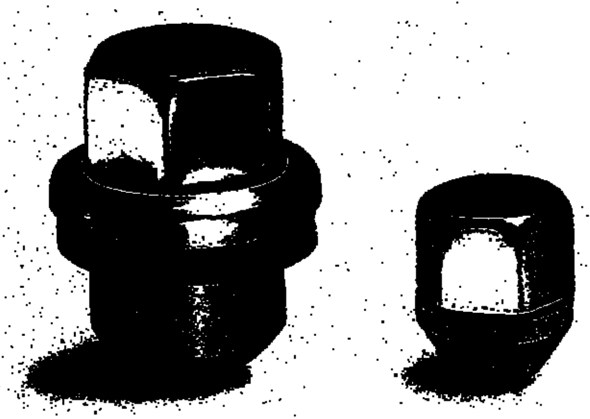
Annual cover includes 17 days winter sports cover, saving you around £53. Rates are available for those aged over 65 years.

To enrol, call the number below between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday or 9am to 5pm on Saturday quoting reference TK25.

0800 700 737

Certain exclusions and eligibility limitations apply. Policy Terms and Conditions are available on request. American Express Services Europe Limited is an independent intermediary governed by the ABI code of conduct.

Insurance Services



One of our wheel nuts, and one from a leading competitor.

IT'S OFFICIAL.

Not only are ours bigger, but they are better engineered.

WE'VE GOT

That's because only Land Rovers are truly engineered for

THE BIGGEST

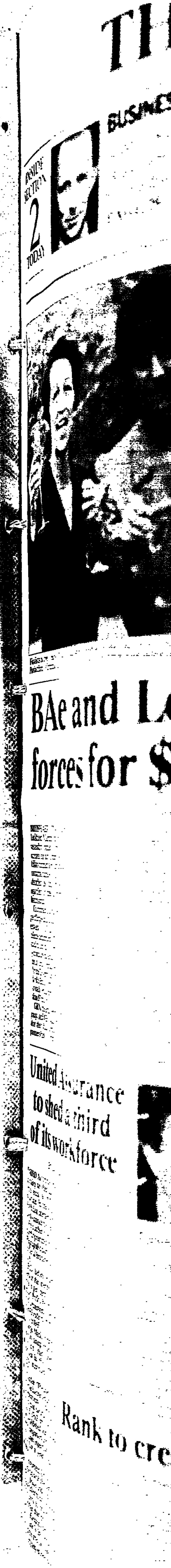
the rigours of off-road driving. And if you're driving a big

NUTS.

4x4 with smaller wheel nuts? Well, that takes erm... guts.

DIAL 100 AND ASK THE OPERATOR FOR FREEPHONE LAND ROVER.

هكذا من الاعلان



TI
BUSINES
INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

BAe and L
forces for $

United Assurance
to shed a third
of its workforce

Rank to cre

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

BUSINESS
Anatole Kaletsky explains why it's too late for Major
PAGE 29

EDUCATION
Movie makers focus on the classroom
PAGE 40

SPORT
How Wembley's cup final ref found sanctuary
PAGES 41-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 46, 47

FRIDAY APRIL 4 1997

DES JENSON

Finalists of the Veuve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year Award, announced yesterday, include Bridget Blow, of ITnet, left; Andrea Wonfor, Granada Productions; Virginia Lopalco, Pasta Reale; and Sue Lyons, Rolls-Royce Military Aero Engines. The fifth finalist is Nicola Foulston, of Brands Hatch Leisure

BAe and Lockheed join forces for $5bn contract

By Eric Reguly

BRITISH AEROSPACE and Lockheed Martin of the US yesterday joined forces to compete for an estimated $5 billion contract for battlefield reconnaissance vehicles, described as the modern equivalent of the Cavalry's Indian scout.

The contract is a rare example of large-scale collaboration between the US and British defence departments. They decided to pool the contract last year and are expected to order about 1,600 vehicles — 1,200 for the US Army and the rest for the British Army. The cost of each vehicle comes to more than $3 million.

GKN, the engineering company, and GEC-Marconi said that they had formed a rival partnership to compete for the contract. GKN built 789 Warrior infantry-fighting vehicles for the British Army.

It is unlikely that other bidders will emerge because no other British company is thought to be capable of supplying the technology and integration systems for the highly complex machines.

The vehicles officially go under the name Tracer/FSCS, short for tactical reconnaissance armoured combat equipment requirement/future scout cavalry system. In Britain, they would replace the Army's ageing Scorpion and Scimitar vehicles, neither of which proved efficient machines in the Gulf and Bosnian conflicts.

A spokesman for Lockheed Martin, America's largest defence company, said that Tracer would be designed to enter the battle theatre ahead of the main battle groups and gather intelligence through digital electronic "sniffing, seeing and hearing" systems.

The armoured vehicles, he said, would be fast, fairly small and capable of defending themselves with light guns. "Stealth" technology such as radar-absorbent material and heat shields would be used to make them hard to detect by radar and infra-red sensors.

BAe would contribute the systems integration expertise and some electronics while Lockheed Martin would supply the bulk of the sensors. Vickers, of the UK, and America's General Dynamics Land Systems, both tank builders, have joined the team.

BAe said that the Joint Requirements Operations Committee of the US and British armies was scheduled to meet soon to hammer out Tracer's technical requirements. An invitation to tender is expected in the autumn, with the production contract being awarded in three or four years.

Ian Stopps, president of Lockheed Martin's Western European division, said: "The programme is the new model for allied government and industry co-operation."

The BAe-Lockheed Martin joint venture is thought to be the largest transatlantic military partnership since BAe and McDonnell Douglas, the American fighter maker that is now part of Boeing, jointly produced the Harrier jump-jet for the US Marines in the 1980s.

BAe and Lockheed Martin are working on other joint projects, only one of which has been made public. They were hired by Britain's Defence Ministry for a feasibility study on ballistic missile defence systems.

The successful bidder hopes to export the Tracer vehicles to other countries. But the military forces of continental Europe, the natural buyers, have shown no interest in this type of system so far.

Instead, some countries are trying to develop pilotless aircraft for battlefield reconnaissance missions.

Bank admits rate rise would hurt exporters

By Janet Bush and Alasdair Murray

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday admitted a rise in interest rates would hurt British exporters but argued that tighter money was necessary because of the strength of the economy.

His remarks to the Foreign Bankers Association in Amsterdam coincided with the first ever survey of Britain's services sector, which suggested that activity is accelerating and that price pressures are growing.

The *Report on Services* published by NTC Research and the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply underlined the growing divergence between an extremely buoyant services sector, accounting for nearly two thirds of the British economy, and a much more sluggish performance from manufacturing, which is struggling against the headwind of a strong pound.

Mr George yesterday drew attention to this split which he said was "undeniably uncomfortable" for making decisions about monetary policy. He said: "Such policy dilemmas do arise from time to time. But you cannot reasonably expose the economy as a whole to inflationary risks in order to protect the tradeable sectors."

The Bank has argued for several months that base rates should rise in response to the strength of the domestic economy and despite the sharp appreciation of the pound. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has stood firm against the advice, arguing that the strength of sterling is hurting manufacturing industry and has proved a powerful deflationary force.

However, yesterday's report on services from purchasing managers provided a warning about inflationary pressures building up in the economy. The institute said service sector activity, already running at a high level over the past nine months, accelerated in March.

It said prices charged by purchasing managers had risen for the fifth consecutive month and further pressure on prices was expected because of a significant increase in service sector wages, particularly among the highly skilled.

The survey excludes retailing because this is covered by the Confederation of British Industry. The CBI's latest distributive trades survey, published yesterday, showed the early timing of Easter had boosted retail sales in March, although the rate of growth was less than retailers had been expecting.

The survey showed that a positive balance of 33 per cent of retailers enjoyed sales growth last month, compared with 24 per cent in February and 27 per cent a year ago. The number of retailers expecting sales to improve in April also edged ahead from 38 per cent to 40 per cent.

The three-monthly measure of sales volumes, which has fallen for the past four months, levelled off at 31 per cent. But average sales growth remains well below the figures seen in the second half of last year.

Economists said the data showed high street sales were enjoying steady but unspectacular growth. The retail sales figures, to be published by the Office for National Statistics later this month, are predicted to show more modest growth than in February.

The volume of stocks remained steady suggesting that retailers believe stock levels are adequate and that manufacturers will see only limited benefits from the latest growth in retail activity.

All sectors of the industry except off-licences reported some growth last month, compared with a year ago, with sales of clothing and footwear especially strong.

Pennington, page 27
Economic view, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4214.6	(-22.0)
Yield	3.83%	
FTSE All share	2056.07	(-8.38)
Nikkei	18129.31	(+92.01)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6472.44	(-44.56)*
S&P Composite	748.86	(-1.25)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	94 5/16*	(94 13/32)
Yield	7.08%*	(7.08%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 11/32%	(6 11/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	108 15/32	(108 14/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6450*	(1.6430)
London:		
$	1.6413	(1.6445)
DM	2.7381	(2.7468)
FFr	9.2241	(9.2493)
SFr	2.3537	(2.3648)
Yen	201.49	(201.32)
£ Index	98.3	(98.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.6695*	(1.6775)
FFr	5.6245*	(5.6485)
SFr	1.4335*	(1.4440)
Yen	122.73*	(123.30)
$ Index	103.7	(103.7)

Tokyo close Yen 122.77

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$18.40	($18.75)

GOLD

London close	$348.95	($350.85)

** denotes midday trading price*

Threadbare

Profits of the top chartered surveyors are to be revealed for the first time although a peep through the Georgian doorways of Mayfair reveals *rather threadbare looking carpets, not the deep pile traditionally expected from* the country's leading partnerships. The big names pull in the fees but not necessarily the profits.
Page 26, Tempus 28

Stepping back

Commercial Union has been forced to re-instate the practice of asking shareholders to vote on the annual report at the AGM after having dropped the procedure this year. Two institutions, meanwhile, are publishing their own corporate governance guidelines.
Pennington, page 27

United Assurance to shed a third of its workforce

By Caroline Merrell

UNITED Assurance Group is planning to shed 2,200 jobs, more than a third of its workforce, in the wake of its £1.4 billion merger with Refuge Assurance last year.

The number is 400 higher than that predicted at the time. The group also plans to cut the number of branches from 279 to 116.

Profits before exceptional items at the merged group rose 18 per cent to £193.5 million. Profits before tax including exceptional items rose to £549.3 million, from £171.4 million in 1995.

George Mack, United Assurance's group chief executive, said that operating conditions in the insurance market continued to be difficult.

He added: "The integration of the two businesses provides the opportunity to make substantial cost savings." Provisions of £76.3 million have been established for the expected integration costs, with the company expecting to save £37 million a year from the merger.

At the moment, United is in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry about whether to attribute the merger costs to shareholder funds rather than policyholder funds. Earnings per share in 1996 were 36.1p, compared with 36p the previous year.

The company increased dividends 35 per cent to 18p. Mr Mack said that about a third of its new business continued to come through its industrial branch, where premiums are collected by salesmen.

He said: "Many of the job losses will be in this area." The high proportion of industrial branch business contributed to a high expense ratio of about 40 per cent.

The company also made a provision of £71 million for possible mis-selling of personal pensions. Mr Mack said that it had isolated 11,000 cases so far where compensation could be due.

Tempus, page 28

Times journalist wins award

ROBERT MILLER, Banking Correspondent of *The Times*, has won the British Insurance and Investment Brokers Association's consumer journalist of the year award (broadsheet category). Mr Miller, who receives a cheque for £350, also won the Bradford & Bingley's personal finance journalist of the year award last October when *The Times* was named personal finance national newspaper of the year.

UK policyholders to receive free Colonial shares

By Gavin Lumsden and Rachel Bridge

MORE than 250,000 UK policy holders of Colonial, the Australian financial services group that demutualised in December, will receive an average of £1,300 worth of free shares and options when the company lists in May.

The company is distributing 75 million shares to 500,000 members worldwide as part of its A$1.3 billion (£650 million) plan to float jointly on the Australian and New Zealand stock markets. A further 90,000 UK members will benefit indirectly through their personal pension policies. However, the offer excludes about 80,000 people with unit trust and unit linked pensions.

The minimum handout will be 225 shares, worth around £290, mainly to holders of term policies. There is no maximum. The company is selling a further 152.5 million shares priced at £1.30. Qualifying members have until May 2 to decide if they want to retain their original allocation or top it up to 500 shares and lots of 100 thereafter.

An institutional offer will be made in a bookbuilding exercise between May 14 to 16. If the share price falls below the retail offer, Colonial has promised to refund the difference to members.

Colonial's demutualisation plans began in December 1994 after its acquisition of the State Bank. It intends to raise £100 million from the flotation with which it will buy out Jardine Fleming's 50 per cent stake in its Asian joint venture.

The shares will be denominated in Australian dollars. Colonial said: "We are trying to make everyone fully aware that it is not easy holding foreign shares. We want them to be aware that it will be more difficult for them than holding shares in BT, for example. There is a foreign exchange risk."

British pension funds have indicated that they will be selling their 78 million shares. Individual UK shareholders will be able to sell their shares prior to listing through a clearing facility arranged by Colonial.

Rank to create 7,500 jobs

By Alasdair Murray

RANK GROUP is to spend £1.5 billion over the next five years, creating around 7,500 jobs in the process of expanding its UK leisure interests.

The company is aiming to open around 40 sites a year as it develops its leading brands, such as the Mecca bingo clubs. Rank is already the largest leisure company in the UK, with 300 bingo clubs, 74 Odeons, 31 Grosvenor casinos and 51 nightclubs.

David Flowers, director of the new leisure property and development department, said the company is targeting sites for 60 more bingo clubs, 15 casinos, 30 cinemas, 25 nightclubs and 50 theme bars. Money will also be used to upgrade existing sites.

The new department will be seeking to invest about £300 million a year. It will be based within the leisure division headquarters in Maidenhead, Berkshire. Rank said some 350 jobs will be lost when the division moves in the summer.

Rank is aiming to open ten new Hard Rock Cafes this year and is selling off its remaining 20 per cent stake in Rank Xerox, for around £930 million. The shares rose 7p to 436½p, with the market anticipating that Rank will soon launch a share buy-back.

Pennington, page 27

7.09% (APR 7.4%) 4 YEAR FIXED RATE

"So what if mortgage rates rise after the election? Ours is fixed for the next four years - guaranteed."

Interest rates usually rise after elections.
Protect your interest by taking one of the **best mortgage rates** available today and **fixing** it for a full **four years** from completion.

☑ ***Four years** at an outstanding fixed rate of 7.09%. Guaranteed.*

☑ ***Protects** you against likely post-election rate rises.*

☑ ***Exclusively** funded by a Top 10 Building Society!*

Exclusively available **ONLY** through Mortgage Intelligence - call **FREE** anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on:

"We don't know who the next Prime Minister will be, but we DO know what our mortgage payments will be - for the next 4 years!"

☎0800·246·000

· MORTGAGE ·
INTELLIGENCE
Britain's Largest Group of Mortgage Brokers

EXCLUSIVE

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Credit subject to age, status & valuation. Typical APR 7.4%. Additional security, life insurance & credit brokerage fees may be required. Written details on request. Funds available at time of going to press.

Lyonnaise welcomes plans for merger

From Adam Sage
in Paris

JEROME MONOD, the chairman of Lyonnaise des Eaux, the French utilities group, yesterday welcomed plans for a merger with Cie de Suez, as an excellent project.

M Monod swept aside market doubts about a tie-up that would represent one of France's biggest financial transactions in recent years.

Announcing a net attributable profit of Fr1.35 billion for 1996, Lyonnaise, which owns the UK water companies, Northumbrian, Essex and Suffolk, and has interests in water treatment and waste management in Britain, said that its board was unanimously in favour of combining with Suez.

Suez, the Paris-based holding company, said on Tuesday that its board had approved the principle of a merger. Both boards will discuss the terms on April 11.

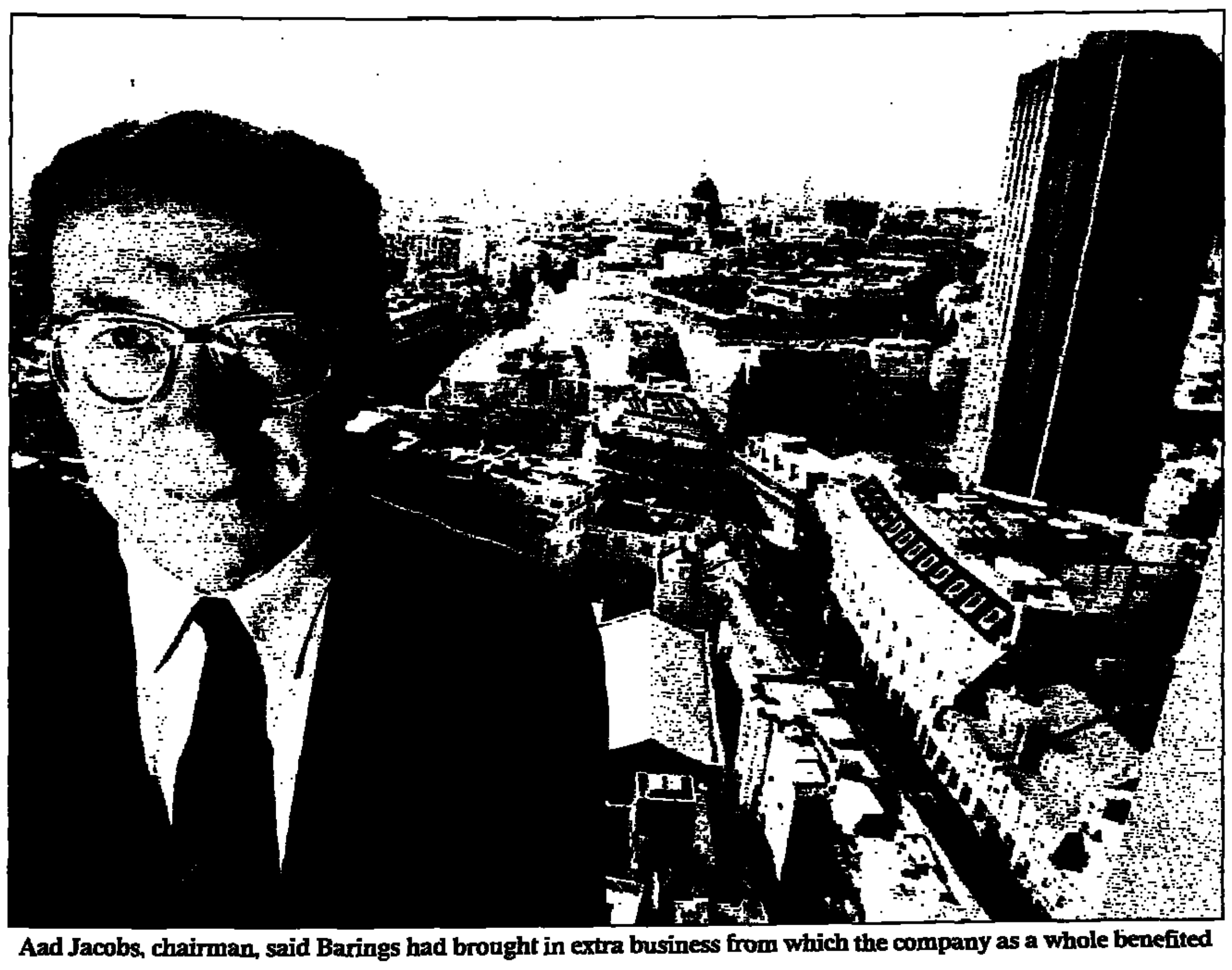
M Monod said: "This is an excellent project which aims to create a worldwide group of local services. Our perspectives will be enlarged by the merger and we will reach the critical size demanded by the markets."

M Monod believes Suez, which has financial assets estimated at Fr34 billion and a cash pile estimated at Fr5 billion, can provide the funds he needs to compete with his bigger rival, Générale des Eaux.

The conglomerate that would emerge from the tie-up would be one of France's top ten companies with an annual turnover of about Fr195 billion.

Analysts in Paris say the that deal appears to make industrial sense although doubts persist over the details of the transaction.

If Suez agrees to a demand from Saint-Gobain, one of its largest shareholders, for Fr3.4 billion payment, its cash pile would be eroded, making it less attractive to Lyonnaise.



Aad Jacobs, chairman, said Barings had brought in extra business from which the company as a whole benefited

ING helped to 25% rise by Barings

By Robert Miller

ING, the Dutch banking and insurance group that owns Barings, yesterday unveiled a 25 per cent increase in annual net profits to 3.3 billion guilders (£1.3 billion).

Aad Jacobs, chairman of ING, said ING Barings had contributed pre-tax profits of £45.4 million to overall group profits. He added that Barings had also brought in extra business from which the company as a whole benefited.

The total amount invested in Barings since ING rescued it for a nominal £1 two years ago and cleared the £830 million debt mountain was about £757 million, Mr Jacobs said. For this financial year ING has set its worldwide subsidiaries, including ING Barings, a target of an 11 per cent return on capital invested.

Mr Jacobs also announced that Hessel Lindenbergh, who took the helm immediately after Barings was bought, was to return to The Netherlands in July after doing "a fantastic job". He will be replaced by Marinus Minderhoud.

Surveyors to give estimates of their profits for first time

By Carl Mortished

THE profits of Britain's big commercial surveying partnerships are being disclosed for the first time this week. A league table published tomorrow by *Estates Gazette*, the commercial property magazine, will rank the top property agents according to their earnings and profits, but a peep behind the Georgian doorways in Mayfair reveals that the carpet is looking a bit threadbare in many firms.

The Estates Gazette 100 shows the big names pulling in the lion's share of fee income but not necessarily the profits to match. Jones Lang Wootton, a partnership, ranks in third place with UK fee income of £51 million. Its accounting profit last year was more than £4 million, shared among 120 partners. Chesterton International and DTZ Debenham Thorpe both earned fee income of £60 million or more but produced less profit.

The 86 partners of Richard Ellis managed to earn profits of only between £1 million and £2 million on £33 million of UK fee income, compared with Hillier Parker's 66 partners who generated more than £4 million from a similar fee base. The weakest performance disclosed among the top 20 firms was Weatherall Green & Smith. Its 60 partners are sharing a profit of less than £500,000 on some £25 million in fee income.

High overheads, expensive offices, competition and the cost of professional indemnity insurance are all hurting profits. Unsurprisingly, firms with fewer mouths to feed make more money. Strutt & Parker, with only 31 partners, produced profits of more than £4 million on £23 million in fees.

Helen Pearce, Editor of *Estates Gazette*, said: "The lean and mean firms, where partners do without big support and have cost-effective offices, make the most money." Corporate clients are increasingly benchmarking their service providers, pushing surveyors into become more open, she said.

Some firms, notably Healey & Baker, Gerald Eve and Gooch & Wagstaff refused to disclose their UK revenues, despite calls for more openness from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Tempus, page 28

Management buyout at Peacock

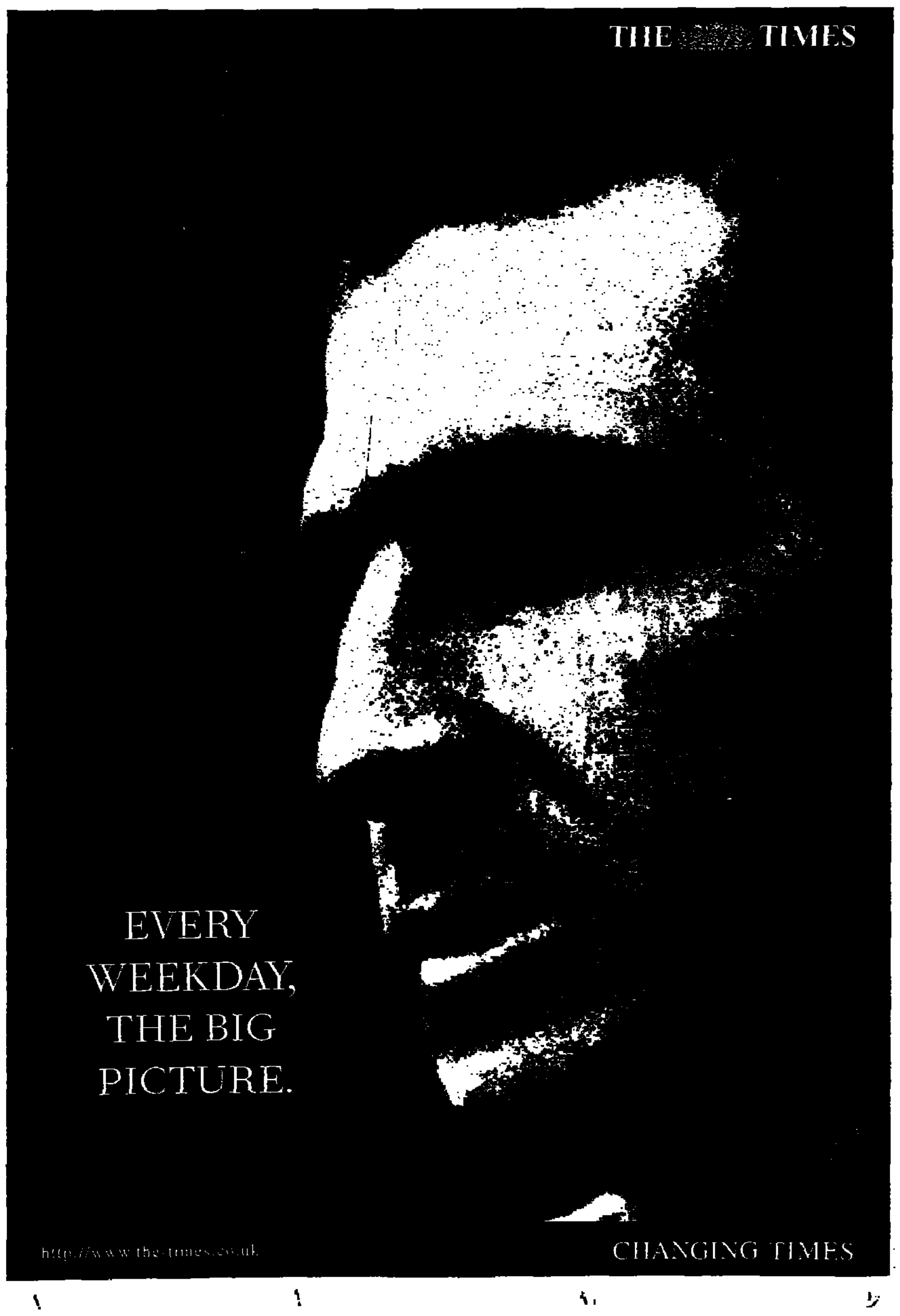
By George Sivell

PEACOCK, the family company that runs Milletts, the country and casual wear chain, is to be bought out by its management for £78 million in a deal financed by Cinven, the equity funding group.

Cinven is also to provide the financial backing necessary to expand the chain of 177 Peacock stores and 59 Milletts stores to a nationwide chain of 500 stores. Sales by the whole Peacock group in 1996-97 are expected to have risen 33 per cent to £105 million.

The business was founded as Peacock's Penny Bazaar in 1882. The present chairman is Robert Peacock, although he has played a more limited role since the appointment of Richard Kirk, the former Iceland managing director, as chief executive in August 1996. Mr Peacock will now become a non-executive deputy chairman after the management buyout.

Cinven said: "Peacock's recent track record is extremely impressive, and we believe that there is substantial growth yet to come from the business."



Westpac defies bid warning

From Rachel Bridge
in Sydney

WESTPAC, one of Australia's biggest banks, defied a Government warning not to preempt a major report into the banking sector yesterday with a A$1.4 billion (£667 million) agreed bid for the Bank of Melbourne, a regional bank.

Less than two weeks ago Peter Costello, Treasurer, warned the banks not to make any commercial decisions before the Government responds to the imminent Wallis report, which is expected to relax the restrictions on mergers and takeovers in the financial sector.

Unveiling the proposals, Robert Joss, Westpac managing director, said: "This announcement is a significant milestone related to our aim of being the best in Australia and New Zealand."

However, Mr Costello said the deal had not yet been given approval. "They've taken a commercial judgement, they do so at their own risk. I make it clear that they shouldn't presume any outcome."

French to decide on GEC bid

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

THE FRENCH Government will name the bidders for Thomson-CSF, the defence electronics operation being privatised by France, on Monday amid speculation over whether GEC will enter the race.

GEC, the diversified industrial group, is believed to have submitted a bid for the French business in opposition to Alcatel-Alsthom, the French group with which GEC has a partnership.

Lagardère, the French group that has a missiles partnership with British Aerospace, is also bidding for the 58 per cent stake in Thomson-CSF to be sold next month.

The French Government has said that it is keen to welcome foreign bidders, although industry observers believe that GEC will have to offer a very full price in order to win. It is possible, however, that GEC will secure a place in a potential consortium for the order by putting itself on the bidding list.

Airbus sees euro as ally against Boeing

From Oliver August in Toulouse

BOEING fears that European monetary union will threaten America's dominant position in the aerospace sector, according to Airbus.

The European consortium, whose partners include British Aerospace, is confident the euro will become an international reserve currency equivalent to the dollar. All aviation sales worldwide are currently denominated in dollars.

An Airbus spokesman said: "Boeing is scared witless of the euro. They might have to start denominating sales in euros rather than dollars."

Selling aircraft in euros would shift the burden of hedging against exchange rate movements from Airbus to Boeing. At the moment, British Aerospace and the other Airbus partners spend millions every year on dollar futures to smooth currency fluctuations.

In a bid to surpass Boeing as the world's leading aerospace company, Airbus will double production over the next three years. Last year it produced 125 aircraft. The number will increase to 180 this year and to 220 in 1998, the consortium said.

Airbus executives in Toulouse are currently preparing an aggressive sales push into Boeing's traditional markets. In 2001 they will launch the biggest Airbus aircraft so far, the A340-600, seating 380 passengers.

Two years later Airbus will unleash the A3XX super jumbo, which can carry almost twice as many people as the Boeing 747.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Zeneca chief's pay up 38% to £898,000

ZENECA'S chief executive saw his pay climb at more than twice the rate of group earnings in 1996. The pharmaceutical company's annual report, published yesterday, revealed that Sir David Barnes earned £898,000 in salary, bonus and other benefits, up 38 per cent from £651,000 in 1995. This compares with the group's 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profit, to £1 billion.

Zeneca, however, has been one of the stock market's top performers. In 1996, the shares rose 31 per cent to £16.47 against the 11.6 per cent rise of the FT-SE 100 index. Fuelled by takeover speculation and the launch of several promising products, they have since risen further, although yesterday they closed down 15p at £17.27½. Sir David, 65, has some 270,000 share options, most of them with an exercise price of 607p. John Mayo, Zeneca's finance director, was the second-highest paid director, with a pay package that rose 22 per cent to £611,000.

Berkeley sells portfolio

BERKELEY GROUP, the UK housebuilder and property developer, has sold a portfolio of commercial investment properties for £103 million. The consideration represents an initial yield of 7.6 per cent. The portfolio of 23 properties, comprising a mixture of retail warehouse parks, leisure properties, industrial warehouses and offices, was sold an unnamed UK life fund. The profit on the disposal amounts to £5.5 million. Part of the proceeds will go towards repaying bank debt and subordinated shareholder loans.

Coca-Cola bottling deal

COCA-COLA AMATIL, the Australian Coca-Cola franchisee, became the largest Coca-Cola bottling group outside the US with the acquisition of San Miguel's soft drinks operation, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc (CCBPI), for A$3.4 billion (about £1.62 billion). CCBPI, which is 70 per cent owned by San Miguel and 30 per cent owned by The Coca-Cola Company, is the leading soft drink company in the Philippines. Under the deal, Coca-Cola Amatil will issue 293 million new shares to San Miguel, giving it a 25 per cent stake in the enlarged group.

Hyder motorway venture

HYDER, the water and electricity company, will take a leading role in managing and maintaining Finland's first privately funded motorway. Hyder is the largest shareholder in the winning Nelostie Oy Consortium that will operate Finland's main motorway between Helsinki and the tourist region of Lahti for 15 years. Hyder with 43 per cent, is investing £2.5 million in the venture. The contract involves upgrading 70 kilometres of road by constructing two new carriageways. Work begins next month.

Oliver back in black

OLIVER GROUP, the shoe retailer, returned to the black with pre-tax profits of £3.12 million in the 57 weeks to February 1, compared with losses of £5.71 million in the previous 12 months. Earnings were 12.32p a share, against losses of 22.61p. But there is again no dividend. The group has closed 18 of its stores and has relocated its headquarters after a year of difficult trading. There was a 7 per cent fall in turnover from £75 million to £69.7 million. The shares remained unchanged at 30p.

Schneider deserts Sema

SEMA, the Anglo-French computer services group, has lost its second-largest shareholder. Schneider SA, a French electrical company, dumped its 5.31 per cent stake on Tuesday, releasing 5.92 million shares into the market. The placing had no impact on Sema's share price on the day, but its shares fell 38½p to £13.01 yesterday as it emerged that Schneider had sold for £12.95 a share. Pierre Bonelli, Sema's chief executive, said the company had agreed to the sale without complaint.

Dolphin lifts payout

DOLPHIN PACKAGING, manufacturer of flip-top hamburger containers and sandwich packs, increased its pre-tax profits 63.5 per cent to £5.38 million (£3.29 million) for the year ended December 31. The company was helped by a strong performance from Fairway Packaging, which it bought last year for £3 million. Dolphin's turnover was £39.2 million (£33.4 million) and earnings per share 15.4p (9.17p). A final dividend of 4.5p (3.3p) will be paid on May 20, raising the total dividend by 35 per cent to 7p (5.2p).

Rugby Estates ahead

RUGBY ESTATES, the retail property company, reported an 18 per cent rise in its pro forma net assets per share, from 130p to 153p, for the year to December 31. The company also reported a 125 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £2.37 million (£1.05 million). Rugby's performance was helped by the recent purchase of a 13,000 sq ft building in Covent Garden for £3.8 million by Covent Garden Estates, Rugby's 50 per cent-owned subsidiary. Earnings per share were 8.7p (4p). A final dividend of 1.6p (1.45p), due on June 4, gives a 2.4p (2.17p) total.

Dagenham Motors up

DAGENHAM MOTORS, Britain's largest Ford dealership group, recovered from a disappointing first half last year by lifting profits slightly from £5.11 million to £5.12 million for the year to December 31. The group was helped by a reorganisation of its car sales division which saw a 5 per cent reduction in staff and a 9 per cent boost in sales to £291.9 million. Earnings per share fell 5.5 per cent to 13.6p. An unchanged final dividend of 5.5p will be paid on May 29, maintaining the total at 7.7p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.19	2.03	Malta	0.654	0.599
Austria Sch	20.30	18.80	Netherlds Gld	3.256	3.006
Belgium Fr	59.75	56.25	New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Canada $	2.389	2.219	Norway Kr	11.67	10.87
Cyprus Cyp£	0.857	0.797	Portugal Esc	288.00	268.00
Denmark Kr	11.03	10.23	S Africa Rd	7.84	7.04
Finland Mkk	8.75	8.07	Spain Pta	243.50	226.50
France Fr	9.69	8.99	Sweden Kr	13.31	12.31
Germany Dm	2.91	2.69	Switzerland Fr	2.49	2.31
Greece Dr	451	425	Turkey Lira	216888	202888
Hong Kong $	13.45	12.35	USA $	1.740	1.610
Iceland	120	100			
Ireland Pt	1.09	1.01			
Israel Shk	5.80	5.15			
Italy Lira	2878	2678			
Japan Yen	216.00	200.00			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Affordable Healthcare
FREEPHONE QUOTING REF B17/DL03
0500 66 99 66
FOR YOUR PROTECTION CALLS WILL USUALLY BE RECORDED AND RANDOMLY MONITORED
Lifetime from HealthCare
Legal & General

هدية من الاهرام

☐ Commercial Union's about-turn ☐ Interest jolt for Chancellor ☐ Rank's salesman repeats his pitch

Pointless vote has a point

☐ LIKE Caesar's wife, Britain's insurers and fund managers have to be cleaner than Hyacinth Bucket's bathroom when it comes to corporate governance. So it is pretty embarrassing for Commerical Union to be caught tramping across the kitchen floor in dirty wellingtons by cancelling the vote on adopting its report and accounts at its annual shareholders' meeting.

CU has had to recant — too late for this year, but the vote will be there next year. But it is hard to to have sympathy for the insurer's argument. What does the vote to adopt or receive the report and accounts actually mean? After all it is not a vote to approve the report and accounts, as they have already been approved by the board of directors and auditors. If shareholders refuse to adopt the accounts, what happens? There is no legal requirement for the accounts to be adopted before coming into force, so there is no legal comeback if the vote goes against approval. De facto, the vote has all the penetration of the English bowling attack.

In the case of CU, as with many of our leading companies, most shareholders will not have seen the accounts they are voting to adopt. CU has more than 58,000 shareholders, 95 per cent of whom own fewer than 5,000 shares and a third of whom have no more than £3,500 invested in the insurer. CU sends these smaller investors an abreviated version of the accounts, keeping in the information CU reckons is relevent and dispensing with the boring detail beloved by pedants and financial journalists. This saves the insurer money and it appears people are more likely to read these abbreviated accounts, rather as we will all read the ten-point plan in the Labour Manifesto and skim the rest.

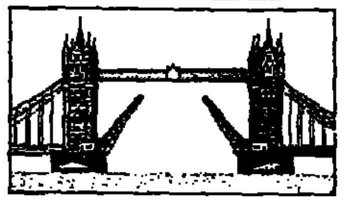
So why not get rid of a pointless vote, where most of the participants have no idea what they are voting about? The answer is rooted is symbolism. It is the ideal way to register dissent. In the US, the giant Californian fund manager, CALPers, tells companies it is unhappy about their strategy, remuneration policy or whatever by voting against the re-election of directors. Most UK fund managers are far too timid to take such action, preferring to write a strong letter or make their views known in a private meeting. But voting against the adoption of the report and accounts can register this dissent publicly without actually causing any damage to the company. Like Wisden's attack on the English cricket establishment, it has no direct effect but is likely to bring change anyway.

Now that Hermes and Standard Life are leading the way by publishing their corporate governance guidelines, British industry knows what the investing community wants. By voting against this apparently meaningless resolution put forward every year, shareholders can show their unhappiness with industry if it trangresses and the corporate governance debate might actually move forward.

Services help Eddie not Ken

☐ THE lack of information on Britain's key services sector, accounting for an astounding 76 per cent of British jobs, has long been a lamentable lacuna in the picture of the economy available to our policymakers. So three cheers for the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply and NTC Research that yesterday published the first-ever survey on activity in service industries.

PENNINGTON



Given the growing importance of services to the British economy, it is fairly astonishing that there has been so little statistical or survey evidence available until now. It is a rich irony, given the Conservative Party's current election campaign boast that Britain is Booming, that those industries which provide some justification for the claim, are virtually untouched by the official statistical service. And why? Because the assiduous men and women of the Office for National Statistics were forced to abandon plans for a monthly index of service sector activity because of lack of money.

It should still be noted that virtually no other country provides much in the way of statistics on service industries and even the National Association of Purchasing Managers in America has not yet got around to issuing its own report on services despite the long and distinguished history of its report on manufacturing, an indicator greatly favoured by no less a figure than Alan Greenspan. Our very own Chartered Institute, representing Britain's purchasing managers, can therefore be fairly described as world leaders in the field.

The findings of their first report yesterday happen to be exactly what most economists had expected. Services are booming, skills shortages and price pressures are intensifying. In other words, this report provides the starkest contrast with manufacturing in which activity and pricing power are being held back by the pound's strength.

The implication for policy is clear. Kenneth Clarke has long justified his fight against Bank of England demands for higher interest rates by citing the weakness of manufacturing. But the new monthly survey on services will make it more difficult for him, or his successor, to maintain this stance.

Many a Teare has to fall

☐ A GOOD salesman can sell you something you already have, often at a higher price than you bought it for in the first place, and make you grateful for the opportunity of being able to purchase it again. Andrew Teare clearly thinks he is a good salesman, flogging the idea of Rank spending £1.5 billion over five years for, maybe, the third time. But his sales patter is wearing thin.

Teare arrived in a blaze of glory, having been the man who "turned around" English China Clays. But it soon emerged that his initiatives had left Cornwall's leading company in a muddy slurry and Teare was far from the *wunderkind* he was cracked up to be.

At Rank he trumpeted a disposal programme, which he now says is largely over, having realised just £300 million. Earlier this week Teare hinted, for maybe the fourth or fifth time, that he is about to sell the remaining 20 per cent stake in Rank Xerox, the photocopier venture. But yesterday he was backtracking quickly, saying Rank was merely "preparing the ground" for the £1 billion disposal.

For all the sales patter, Rank's problem is clear. It has a great portfolio of leisure assets that it does not work hard enough. While investing in new night clubs, theme bars and cinemas is all well and good, somehow Rank does not appear to get the same sort of returns on these investments that its rivals achieve. What the group needs is not a salesman but a solid, leisure operator. And is not that nice John Conlan about to take his leave of First Leisure in the near future?

Entente Cordiale?

☐ POOR old Mike Greenlees. No sooner has the chief executive of GGT Group completed the £123 million purchase of BDDP than he finds his opposite number at the French advertising agency, Jean-Marie Dru, advocating a policy of "disruption". He apparently means challenging strategic conventions. But with GGT shares below where they were before it bought BDDP, this does not sound promising.

Compuserve in $1bn talks with America Online

From Richard Thomson in New York

COMPUSERVE, the ailing computer online service company, is in merger talks with America Online, its larger rival, that could result in a deal worth about $1 billion.

H&R Block, Compuserve's owner, has confirmed that the company is discussing a possible "business combination". With 2.2 million subscribers in Europe and 3.1 million in the US, Compuserve is the largest online and internet access service outside North America. A merger with AOL would create an online leviathan with 60 per cent of the market in the US, leaving Microsoft's online service launched a year ago as the only key rival.

Analysts say AOL is likely to pay about $1 billion for Compuserve in shares. AOL shares are worth about $44.50; Compuserve has plunged from its flotation price of $30 a year ago to $9.80 as its competitive position has steadily deteriorated.

The merger would solve problems that have built up for both companies recently. Compuserve has failed to add significant numbers of new customers, losing ground to AOL and Microsoft, with stagnating revenues. AOL, however, has been a victim of its success with its 8 million subsrcibers finding it harder to access the service because of crowded telephone lines and computer space. AOL also wants to expand overseas where Compuserve, which was launched years before AOL, has always had a lead.

A merger would expand both AOL's computer infrastructure and its overseas subscriber base. However, some analysts see more problems arising for AOL because Compuserve, which is losing money, would damage AOL's finances. They say it is unlikely that all Compuserve's subscribers would agree to switch to AOL, so the larger company would end up paying too much for the acquisition. The deal could face antitrust problems regarding market share.

Some analysts said that one of the regional telephone companies may be tempted to bid for Compuserve as a way of expanding its telecoms services and finding a way into the internet access industry.

Laird switch pays off

RETREAT from the troubled car market in Germany has ensured a return to growth for Laird Group, which returned record profits for 1996 after a resurgence in its second half (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company said the move had helped to lift overall pre-tax profits to £66.6 million (£66.1 million). The soaring pound had cost £600,000, adding to a £1 million loss from disposals and an operating loss of £1.6 million from its conveyor belt businesses.

A final dividend of 8.1p, due June 6, lifts the year's total to 13p from 12p.

Tempus, page 28

PETER TRIEVNOR

Andrew Parrish, chief executive, right, and Terry Garthwaite, finance director, see excellent opportunities for growth

Senior to step up acquisitions

By Chris Ayres

SENIOR ENGINEERING, the specialist engineering company whose customers include Ford, Boeing and Nasa, is poised to make a series of acquisitions, according to Andrew Parrish, the new chief executive.

Mr Parrish, who joined Senior from Williams Holdings in January, said: "Last year was too light on acquisitions. We have a very clear agenda for this year. In Flexonics, in particular, Senior has an outstanding business with excellent opportunities for substantial growth."

Mr Parrish said the company wanted to increase its presence in Asia and may also make bolt-on acquisitions for its engineered products and services division.

Senior yesterday reported that pre-tax profits in the year to December 31 fell to £2.68 million from £22.13 million after one-off charges of £29.3 million for the sale of the thermal engineering division. Underlying pre-tax profits rose 38 per cent to £31.5 million (£22.8 million) and turnover was also up, from £372.1 million to £439.5 million.

Earnings per share, before exceptionals, grew 10.6 per cent to 7.64p (6.91p). Senior has increased its total dividend to 3.82p (3.6p) with a final 2.38p to be paid on June 4.

Littlewoods to dispose of 14 stores overseas

By Paul Durman

LITTLEWOODS, which recently decided to put its UK stores chain up for sale, is now seeking buyers for its 14 stores in Russia and India.

The international operation, begun as a trial in 1991, is thought to have sales of less than £10 million, a tiny fraction of the group's annual turnover of about £2 billion. The single store in India, in Bangalore, was opened only last year. Although sales have grown rapidly, the stores are still loss-making.

Mike Wynne, managing director of Littlewoods International, said the Russian and Indian businesses had reached a stage where they needed substantial investment to develop further. With Littlewoods deciding to concentrate on its home shopping and football pools activities, it is no longer appropriate to continue supporting the international business.

Littlewoods has four stores in St Petersburg and franchises in another nine Russian cities. Littlewoods International employs 320 people in Russia, 120 in Bangalore and 15 in the UK.

The group has 135 stores in the UK and hopes to raise more than £500 million from their sale.

UP TO 41 MINS OF FREE * CALLS EVERY MONTH
ORDER NOW - PRICES MUST INCREASE NEXT WEEK
PLUS
FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE AND IN-CAR ADAPTOR WORTH £55 inc. VAT
FREE £30 VOUCHER
FREE COUNTDOWN MEMBERSHIP FOR 1 YEAR
FREE LIFETIME PRODUCT WARRANTY
FREE 14-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS
VODAFONE
CELLPHONES DIRECT TARIFF
CONNECTION CHARGE £35.00
MONTHLY RENTAL £17.50
PEAK RATE CALLS UK WIDE 40p per min
OFF PEAK CALLS 12p per min
ONE SECOND BILLING
NOKIA 1611 £9.99
Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time
110 hrs standby
Weight 250g
PRICE PLEDGE WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN
Cellphones Direct
THE NAME TO TRUST IN TELEPHONE SHOPPING
QUOTE REF. 5439
* WORTH £60.00 PER YEAR
FREEPHONE 0800 000 888

Headlam aims for 30% market share

By Paul Durman

HEADLAM, the fast-growing carpet wholesaler, has set its sights on grabbing a 30 per cent share of the market dealing with independent retailers.

The company, which yesterday reported annual pre-tax profits almost 50 per cent higher at £11.6 million, has revised its original target of a 25 per cent market share. Since Graham Waldron, chairman, and Ian Kirkham, chief executive, arrived in 1991, a series of acquisitions has turned Headlam into Britain's largest floorcoverings distributor. It now claims 23 per cent of the market.

The latest results include £3.7 million of operating profits and £50.9 million of sales from last year's four acquisitions. The revival in the housing market helped the ongoing floorcovering business to increase its operating profit 26 per cent to £5.8 million on sales 14 per cent higher at £85.9 million.

Headlam's soft furnishing division found the demand for curtains and upholstery fabrics less buoyant. Sales of fabric by the continuing business grew 7 per cent to £44.5 million, while profits increased 9 per cent to £3.8 million.

Headlam intends to pay a final dividend of 4.35p on July 7, which will increase the total 21 per cent to 5.8p a share.

Boots to sell Nurofen in Russia

From Sarah Cunningham in Moscow

BOOTS Healthcare International, part of the Boots retail and manufacturing group, is to invest between £9 million and £10 million on promoting its Nurofen painkiller in Russia.

Nurofen is the first ibuprofen painkiller to be launched in Russia. Boots aims to secure market leadership ahead of the arrival of Advil, the bestselling American brand, expected next year.

Boots, which is targeting only well-off consumers, does not intend to open shops or factories in the region.

Last frontier, page 29

IMI continues expansion

By Fraser Nelson

IMI, the engineering group, has made its third big acquisition in four months. It has agreed to buy TA Hydronics, a radiator valve manufacturer, for £77 million.

IMI shares rose 10p to 387p on news of the purchase, which will be funded through borrowings. Alan Emson, finance director, said the company would have ideally liked more time to digest its other two acquisitions.

He said: "It has been like waiting for the Number Five bus; you wait for hours and then three come along at once. But we did not want to wait with this deal; TA is the best in this business and it makes an ideal fit with the rest of our operations. TA's markets are growing very quickly. People are very energy conscious in Scandinavia, and there are signs that this is coming through to the rest of Europe."

Emson: Swedish acquisition

TA, based in Sweden, produces valves that regulate the distribution of heat through chains of radiators in office blocks. The company says the system normally pays for itself within two years through efficiency savings.

In 1996, it made a pre-tax profit of £9.4 million on sales of £67 million. Three quarters of its profits come from exports, with Austria an especially large market.

IMI plans to use TA's customer base to market its own products in Scandinavia, where TA is the market leader. IMI is expected to start producing TA's peripheral products, such as pipe connectors, in other factories but no job losses are expected.

IMI bought Heimeier, Germany's largest radiator valve manufacturer, last year for £134 million. Mr Emson said IMI was unlikely to make any more large buys for some time.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR FULL OPERATING CONCESSION OF LAHORE - ISLAMABAD MOTORWAY

Lahore-Islamabad Motorway including Lahore bypass is a 350 KM long, 6 lanes divided, access control tolled Motorways, constructed at the cost of Rs. 35.92 billion. The Motorway connects Lahore (Capital of Punjab Province) with the Federal Capital of Pakistan i.e. Islamabad. The Motorway will be ready for commissioning on 1st September 1997.

It is intended by the National Highway Authority to give full operating concession of this Motorway to the private enterprise for an agreed term during which he will be responsible for toll collection, operation/management as well as the maintenance of the toll collection facilities and the Motorway itself. The maintenance will include routine and periodic maintenance of the Motorway. The term specified for this concession is 15 years after which the Motorway will be handed over to the National Highway Authority at pre agreed level of service. (National Highway Authority is seeking expressions of interest for both full operation of the motorway by a private enterprise and operation of the motorway on National Highway Authority's behalf by a management consultant. It is intended to enter into an agreement for one option only after receipt of bids.)

The interested parties are requested to submit their expression of interest, which will include Company's profile and experience in the field of toll operations, management and maintenance of project of such magnitude. In case of joint ventures a combined statement shall be submitted for the purpose of evaluation.

The operating concession company/JV shall submit the following with the relevant proof of their capabilities.

1. Financial statement alongwith the statement as to how they will raise/generate resources to manage, operate and maintain the Lahore-Islamabad Motorway.
2. Statement of their capabilities and experience of similar services they have so far rendered any where in the world.
3. Statement of interest and reasons why they should be considered for pre-qualification to participate in this operating concession.

The broad guideline for the submission of proposals shall be issued to the qualified Companies/JV only. All interested parties/JVs are requested to submit their expression of interest to the undersigned on or before 20th April 1997.

The National Highway Authority reserve the right to reject any or all submissions without assigning any reasons thereof.
Altaf Ahmad Chaudhry
Member Motorway
National Highway Authority
33, Queens Centre, Queens Road, Lahore Tel. (042) 7572903

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Wall Street continues to cast shadow over London

The famous gongman will stay at Rank, up 9½p at 436½p

FURTHER losses on Wall Street in the wake of Wednesday's 90-point setback for the Dow Jones industrial average left share prices in London nursing fresh falls.

Attempts to steady the market met with only limited success as the FT-SE 100 index lost further ground in late trading to end 22.0 down at 4,214.6 in thin conditions. Further volatility can be expected today ahead of the US payroll numbers, which could provide the signal for another rise in US interest rates.

By the close of business a meagre 806 million shares had changed hands. Much of this was made up of bed-and-breakfast transactions designed to establish tax losses ahead of the financial year-end later today.

The losses might have been greater had it not been for a strong performance from the utilities. It seems worries about a windfall tax being imposed by an incoming Labour government have been put on the backburner, while their defensive qualities continue to be sought in a falling market. Credit Lyonnais Laing and Panmure Gordon reckon that a windfall tax has already been factored into prices. Laing says they look cheap and should be bought.

Leading the charge were the power generators, where **National Power** put on 17½p at 496½p, and **PowerGen** 16½p at 608½p.

Angelos Anastasiou at Panmure rates PowerGen as a "buy", claiming it represents good value for money, boasts a strong balance sheet and cash flows and should be able to deal comfortably with a windfall tax. Continued economic growth would lead to increased demand for electricity.

Laing also sees **BG**, 2½p better at 167p, and **Centrica**, 1½p lighter at 60¾p with **National Grid**, 1p firmer at 208½p, **Southern Electric**, 1p dearer at 388½p, and **Scottish Hydro**, 2½p better at 364½p, as "key buys".

In the water sector, **Severn Trent** stood out with a rise of 11p to 698½p, while gains were also recorded in **Thames Water**, 6½p to 666½p, and **South West Water**, 6p to 671p.

The news that industrial gas prices in the US were rising spilled over into **BOC Group**, 8p better at 940½p. Praxair in the US has increased the price of both carbon dioxide and hydrogen by 4 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. Now brokers expect BOC, one of the big players in the marketplace, to follow suit.

Rank Organisation continued to benefit from this week's sale of its film distribution unit to **Carlton Communications** for £65 million with a rise of 9½p to 436½p. But the deal did not include the "gongman" who has provided the opening sequence for Rank films since 1935. This latest disposal formed part of Rank's £300 million restructuring programme, which has now been completed. Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, says the disposal is earnings enhancing and it remains a firm buyer.

Speculative buying lifted **Cementone** 13½p to 60½p after it emerged that Laurie Lewis, ex-Blenheim Exhibitions man, had snapped up a near 30 per cent stake in the company belonging to United Coatings, its biggest shareholder. Only last month Cementone announced United Coatings was in talks to sell the 34 per cent stake. It is hoped that Lewis can achieve the sort of results with Cementone that he did with Blenheim. Anthony Chattwell has resigned as a director of Cementone.

Better than expected profits news and some encouraging comments about current trading lifted **Laird Group** 44½p to 389p. Worries about the impact of a strong pound were swept to one side. ABN Amro Hoare Govett and Société Generale Strauss Turnbull, the brokers, have both come out with buy recommendations and others are expected to lift their forecasts.

Sema Group dropped 38½p to £13.01½ after Schneider, the French electrical group, sold its 5.31 per cent stake in the market. The 5.92 million shares were sold to various institutions by HSBC James Capel, the broker, at £12.95. Pierre Bonelli, chief executive of Sema, said the disposal had the full backing of his board and would improve liquidity in the shares.

Airtours fell 38p to 923½p after reports that Carnival Corporation, its biggest shareholder with almost 30 per cent, had decided against raising its stake in the company.

The profits setback at **Senior Engineering** was even worse than first imagined, but that did not discourage market bulls, with the price closing 8½p better at 124½p.

Brokers were also pleased with **Dolphin Packaging**, which showed pre-tax profits up from £3.29 million to £5.38 million. The shares responded with a jump of 15p to 222½p. **Headlam** fell 9p to 309½p despite a healthy increase in profits and a strong start to trading in the current year.

But there was little to cheer for shareholders of **A H Ball Group**, with the price dropping 7p to 25½p on the news that it had traded at a small loss in the second half and was unlikely to pay a dividend for the year to March. The group reported a surplus of £170,000 in the first six months.

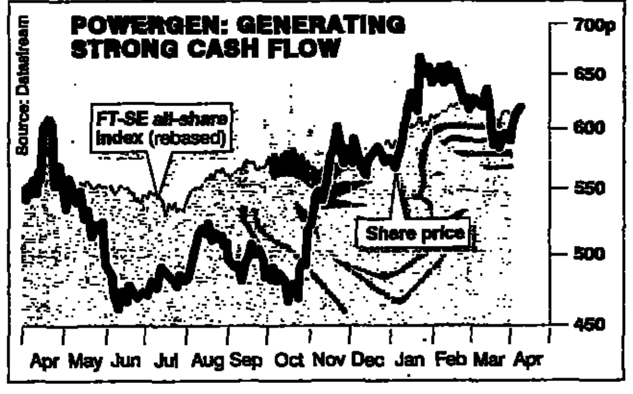
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices fluctuated in narrow limits for much of the day as investors anxiously awaited today's farm payroll numbers for signs of growing inflationary pressures. It is feared that last week's quarter-point rise in US rates could soon be followed by further increases.

The June series of the long gilt was £$^{3}/_{16}$ lower at £108$^{13}/_{32}$ in modest trading that saw 38,000 contracts completed. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £$^{9}/_{32}$ lower at £101⅝ and Treasury 8 per cent 2000 a tick off at £102$^{5}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares traded lower in the morning, depressed by a sell-off in IBM and concern about today's release of March employment figures. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 44.56 points at 6,472.44.

☐ Owing to technical problems at Liffe, the Liffe options quoted refer to those of April 2.

One of the best performances came from Drew Scientific, where brokers are increasingly excited about the group's process for detecting heart disease. Drew ended 53p higher at 162½p and has more than trebled in the past two weeks after a share placing at 52p. Word is that the shares still have further to go.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 6472.44 (-44.56)
S&P Composite .... 748.86 (-1.25)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 18129.31 (+92.01)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 12055.17 (-81.15)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 702.11 (-6.44)

Sydney:
AO .... 2361.0 (+5.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 3215.34 (-86.67)

Singapore:
Straits .... 2078.08 (-11.73)

Brussels:
General .... 11632.06 (-125.65)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2514.52 (-15.76)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 932.10 (-4.50)

London:
FT 30 .... 2801.5 (-11.6)
FTSE 100 .... 4214.6 (-22.0)
FTSE 250 .... 4504.6 (-2.7)
FTSE 350 .... 2082.8 (-8.9)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 .... 2095.44 (-21.85)
FTSE All-Share .... 2056.07 (-8.38)
FTSE Non Financials .... 2123.72 (-9.08)
FTSE Fixed Interest .... 117.18 (-0.06)
FTSE Govt Secs .... 93.40 (-0.12)
Bargains 70662
SEAQ Volume 806.3m
US$ .... 1.6415 (-0.0032)
German Mark .... 2.7387 (-0.0088)
Exchange Index .... 98.3 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.4039
£:SDR 1.1837
RPI .... 155.0 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 154.5 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aurora Inv Trust	100	...
Avalon Oil	103½	...
Avis Europe	126½	- 1
Cambridge Antbdy	585	- 5
Charlton Athletic	60½	- 1
Diagonal	295	...
Dobbies Grdn Ctrs	260	...
Donatantonio	71½	...
Harvey Nash	180½	...
Heal's	210½	- 2
Helphire Group	117½	- 2
KBC Advncd Techs	237½	+ 1
London Bridge Sftw	298½	- 2
M & G High Income	67½	...
M & G High Pckg	101½	...
Newcastle Utd	139	- 1
PSD Group	248½	...
Pathfinder Properties	42	+ 7
Prestbury *Leisure*	2½	...
Q Group	115½	...
River & Merc 1st UK	99½	...
Screen	5	...
Total Office Grp	156½	- 1
Whitehead Mann	144½	...
World Telecom	171½	+ ½
Worldsec	177	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Biocure n/p (9)	15½	- 4½
Cliveden n/p (75)	7½	+ 2
JKX Oil & Gas n/p (34)	7½	+ 1
Partco n/p (300)	9½	- 14½
Saville Gordon n/p (55)	½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Laird .... 389p (+44½p)
Dolphin Pack .... 222½p (+15p)
JJB Sports .... 404p (+17½p)
IMI .... 387p (+10p)
BTG .... 649p (+16½p)

FALLS:
Somic .... 145p (-18p)
Aspen Coms .... 180p (-11p)
Danka Bs Sys .... 450p (-27½p)
Airtours .... 923½p (-38p)
Cantab Pharms .... 977½p (-30p)
Smithkline .... 848p (-19½p)
De La Rue .... 523½p (-10p)
Farey Group .... 579p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Widows and orphans

AFTER all the fuss from institutions about the orphan assets (or fantasy funds, if you believe its directors), the merged United Friendly/Refuge Assurance bosses probably felt more than usually compelled to produce a little extra in the full-year results by hacking away at the core business.

A huge reduction in branch offices, from 279 to 116, should enable United to streamline the collection of premiums and marketing of insurance products. United's big task is to convert its market of low-income households from a weekly cash collection to the cheaper mechanism of bank direct debits but this quaint business has attractions. It is a large market; in marketing terms "Cs" and "Ds" outnumber the affluent As and Bs pursued aggressively by other insurers and the antique collection process establishes a high level of customer loyalty. Better still, it is a market almost ignored by the big insurers.

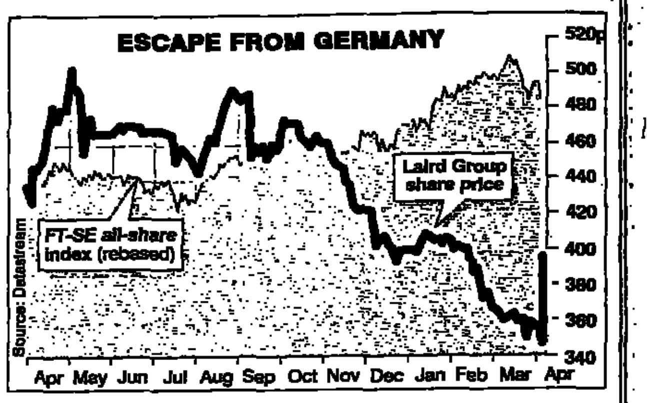
Steady business flow and cost-cutting make United a great yield play; appropriately, a widows and orphans stock. But United reckons the risk of the merger (and the benefits) should accrue to shareholders, not policyholders. By creating a service company, United could ringfence the £76 million cost of the merger and let shareholders gain 100 per cent of the cost savings. United argues that policyholders would benefit by being spared the risks and costs of the merger. Clearly, they could be spared the costs by allocating the entire £76 million burden to United's shareholders but, if the merger produces worse investment management than they previously enjoyed, the policyholders will not be spared the risk.

Laird

LAIRD has emerged from the wreckage of the European automotive industry with fewer wounds than it was nursing at half-time. Six months ago, the tale was of a dire German market and lacklustre results elsewhere. Profits from its escape route — computer assembly — came too little, too late.

The transformation has been breathtaking. While the sores that defaced the interim results have not entirely healed, they look less painful. Germany is still depressed, but Laird is in full flight from the country, cutting its 2,500-strong automotive workforce by some 40 per cent. Meanwhile, it has been following its customers into the lower-cost Czech Republic and Spain, and been rewarded with strong growth. Laird is the market leader in car door sealants, and its ability to extract profits from Europe bodes well for its £1.8 million investment in the US, from which it expects an influx of cash by 1998. Meanwhile, its non-automotive businesses, which take in other plastics and computer keyboards, now produce over half of the profits, reducing its dependence on the motor sector and giving it a credible second leg.

All told, Laird is in far better shape than the market has so far given it credit for. With a strong start to the year and guarantees of long-term growth falling into place as each month passes, its shares deserve better than a discount to the market.



Eurotunnel

THE City view on last November's fire in the Channel Tunnel is that, financially, this is a mere pin-prick for Eurotunnel. True, Eurotunnel's handling of the affair was a public relations disaster, and the fire renewed powerful fears about travelling under the sea.

But, as yesterday's traffic figures show, the convenience of the tunnel can conquer such phobias. And the cost of the disruption to Eurotunnel — no more than £10 million after insurance — is dwarfed by £9 billion of debt. Eurotunnel was bust before the fire, and is still bust afterwards. Without nailing down October's refinancing deal, lost revenues become irrelevant.

That deal could still be torn up if the safety authorities force Eurotunnel to abandon the controversial open-sided freight wagons, blamed by the Kent Fire Brigade for fanning the blaze. Robert Malpas, the British co-chairman, yesterday mounted a robust defence of the wagons, rubbishing the alleged blowtorch effect as "a fallacy".

Mr Malpas needs the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority to back him up. If not, the blow to the banks' confidence could be more important than the cost of new wagons. Eurotunnel has already been proved wrong about the scale of the disruption the fire would cause, and the integrity of its safety procedures. It cannot afford to be wrong again.

Surveyors

THERE was a time when partnership in a big professional firm was a prize without equal. For a few City law or accountancy firms, it may still be so but for many young chartered surveyors, partnership looks as much a liability as the road to riches. This profession has never really recovered from the crushing blow of the last property crash. While firms of chartered surveyors scrambled for diminishing business in the early 1990s, accountants pinched their consulting business and clients squeezed the fees on valuations and property management.

Since then, the property market has recovered and confidence continues to improve but profitability remains weak. Fee levels have not improved and costs are still too high. At least one major firm has seen its high-flying junior staff quit after being offered partnership. After seeing the accounts, they fled to smaller firms.

There are exceptions. Savills has benefited from the buoyant agricultural land market and sales of expensive homes. But commercial surveyors are still reluctant to cut their cloth to suit a leaner world and dispense with huge payrolls and Mayfair offices. A cottage industry with few barriers to entry cannot afford mansions.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	1044-1043	Jul	1082-1078
Jul	1058-1056	Sep	1094-1087
Sep	1069-1067	Dec	1108-1100
Dec	1051-1048	Mar	1122-1117
Mar	1061-1059		
May	1072-1068		Volume: 4139

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1610-1608	Jan	1620-1615
Jul	1621-1620	Mar	1610-1590
Sep	1636-1635	May	1610-1590
Nov	1638-1635		Volume: 3976

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	303.0-02.4
Spot: 310.7		Mar	303.0-02.5
May	309.6-09.5	May	304.5-02.5
Aug	307.5-07.2	Jul	unq
Oct	304.0-03.4		Volume: 3088

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 2

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	85.70	149.92	96.06
(+/-)	+5.23	+9.53	+2.65
Eng/Wales:	85.70	154.47	95.78
(+/-)	+5.23	+8.46	+2.63
(%)	-27.0	+51.0	+11.0
Scotland:	unq	150.06	98.04
(+/-)	...	+13.28	+2.60
(%)	...	-53.0	+25.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.20	-0.75
Brent 15 day (May)	18.15	-0.75
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.40	-0.70
W Texas Intermediate (May)	19.55	-0.70
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	19.65	-0.60

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	201 (-3)	203 (-3)
Gasoil EEC	164 (-4)	166 (-4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	80 (-2)	83 (-1)
Naphtha	184 (-1)	189 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	162.00-62.25	Jul	167.50-67.75
May	163.50-63.75	Aug	169.75 SLR
Jun	165.50-65.75		Vol: 16920

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	18.17-18.21	Aug	18.60 SLR
Jun	18.42-18.44	Sep	18.65 SLR
Jul	18.54 SLR		Vol: 33867

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	98.75	May	94.00
Jul	101.50	Sep	93.50
Sep	96.75	Nov	95.50
Nov	98.75	Jan	97.50
Jan	100.75	Mar	99.50
	Volume: 937		Volume: 49

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	31.0	31.0
May	42.5	44.5
Jun	unq	67.0
		Volume: 177

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
May 76.50-77.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 97	1520	1505	1510
May 97	1519	1500	1510
Jun 97	1365	1365	1355
Jul 97	1250	1240	1250
Vol: 208 lots		Open interest: 2935	

Index 1481 -12

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE Rudolf Wolff

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2427.0-2428.0	2378.0-2379.0	1601550
Lead ($/tonne)	694.00-695.00	691.00-691.50	165825
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1272.0-1273.0	1296.0-1297.0	556325
Tin ($/tonne)	5860.0-5870.0	5885.0-5890.0	15400
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1602.5-1603.0	1636.0-1636.5	1612025
Nickel ($/tonne)	7580.0-7585.0	7700.0-7705.0	54768

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	420	31½	39	46½	0½	11	15½
(*450)	460	5½	16½	26	13½	31	35
ASDA	100	8	11	13	0½	2½	4½
(*107½)	110	1½	5½	7½	4	6½	9
Boots	650	35	50	56½	1½	14½	20½
(*682½)	700	4½	21	30½	20½	39	45½
Br Airways	600	42½	54½	65½	1	12½	19
(*640½)	650	7	25	38½	15½	35½	41½
BP	650	48	64	73½	0½	12	19½
(*696)	700	10	34½	45	12	31	40
Br Steel	160	3½	9	11	3	12	14
(*160½)	180	0	2½	4½	19½	27½	28½
C & W	460	33½	48	56	2	13½	19½
(*491½)	500	7	26	34½	14½	32	38
CU	650	19½	52	70	14	41	59
(*654½)	700	4	31½	52½	48	69	90
ICI	660	45	62½	71	0½	8½	17½
(*692½)	700	9½	31½	41	14½	27½	39½
Land Sec	750	21	35½	43½	6	23½	29
(*766)	800	1	12	21	35½	56	59½
M & S	460	30	40½	48½	1	11	13½
(*488½)	500	4½	17	27½	15	31	32½
Nat West	650	35	60	69½	2	17½	29½
(*682½)	700	5	32	43½	21	39½	54
Safeway plc	330	24½	32	37	0½	10	13½
(*353)	360	5	15	21½	10	25	29
Sainsbury	330	10	19	26½	3½	14½	17½
(*337)	360	1	7½	14½	23½	34	36½
Shell	1050	16½	37½	51½	28½	45	58½
(*1054)	1100	2	20	31½	72	79	89½
Smkl Bch	850	26½	55½	76	10	31	43½
(*860)	900	5½	33	52	37	58	69½
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1700	60	119	163½	15	51½	74
(*1739)	1800	14½	71½	108	66½	102½	123
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAT Ind	500	19½	44	51½	7	24	35½
(*512)	550	2	23	30	39½	52½	64
Vodafone	260	19½	30	36½	1	9	13
(*278)	280	6½	19	26	7	18	22
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	460	29	39½	47½	5	12½	17
(*481)	500	7½	18½	27½	24	35	37
Ladbroke	220	11	18½	22½	5	9	12
(*225)	240	3	9½	13½	17	20	22½
Utd Bisc	220	17½	25½	28½	3½	7½	11½
(*233)	240	6	14	18	11½	16	21

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	460	40	49	55	0½	7½	10
(*498½)	500	8½	22½	31	8	22	26
Thames W	650	19	43	48	8	39½	42
(*660½)	700	2	21½	27	40	71	73
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BTR	240	20½	28½	33	3	6½	9
(*257½)	260	8	16½	21½	10	13½	17½
Br Aero	1350	54	94	118½	31½	50½	63½
(*1362)	1400	31½	68	92	58½	75½	87½
Br Telcm	420	20½	30½	37½	8½	22½	25½
(*430½)	460	5	12	15½	31½	49	50
Cadbury	500	47	60½	66	3½	9	13½
(*540½)	550	15	30½	38	20½	28½	33
Guinness	460	44	55½	63	2½	6½	10½
(*498½)	500	18	29½	38	15	20½	25
GEC	360	29	36	40	3	11	14
(*383)	390	10	19	24½	14	26	29
Hanson	260	19	28	31½	5½	10	14
(*272½)	280	8	17	21	14½	19	23½
LASMO	220	22	29½	34	5	10½	9½
(*236)	240	10½	18½	23	13½	19	18
LucasVarity	180	14½	20½	24	4½	6	10½
(*191½)	200	4½	11	14½	14	16½	21
Pilkngtn	110	10½	12½	—	3½	7	—
(*116)	120	5½	7½	—	8	12½	—
Prudential	550	23	40	50½	16	24½	33
(*554)	600	7	18	28½	48½	54	61½
Redland	330	31	35½	43	7	14½	19
(*356½)	360	11½	19½	28	22½	30½	34
R-Royce	220	16½	24	28½	5½	11½	14
(*231½)	240	6½	15	19	15½	22	24
Tesco	330	21½	28½	35	6½	11½	16
(*347½)	360	5	14½	20½	23	27½	31½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4234½)

	4100	4150	4200	4250	4300	4350
Calls						
Apr	148½	108	72½	43½	23½	11½
May	190	153	121	90½	67	45½
Jun	220	185	153½	123	99½	77
Jul	238½	205½	174½	148½	122	99
Dec	341½	—	276½	—	220½	—
Puts						
Apr	16	25½	40½	62	93	131½
May	48	60	79	99	126	155
Jun	70½	85	104½	124½	150½	177½
Jul	85	100	118½	141½	166	194
Dec	141½	—	173½	—	216	—

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Abby Nat	700	37	64½	76	2½	20	28½
(*733½)	750	8	36½	49	22	42	52
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1000	23½	61	79½	13	36½	53½
(*1009)	1050	5	39	55½	43½	63	80
Natl Pwr	450	31	—	—	1	—	—
(*479½)	500	2½	22½	22½	22½	45	52
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	1050	48½	85	99½	5	24	40½
(*1092½)	1100	17	55½	71½	20	44½	63
HSBC	1400	48	106	133½	11	48½	74
(*1435½)	1450	20	80½	107	32	72½	97
Reuter	550	44	62½	73½	1	12	17½
(*590½)	600	10	33	45	17½	30½	38
Royal & Sun	431	11	—	—	5½	—	—
(*435)	460	2	15	24	25½	32½	39
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Blue Circ	390	23	35½	41½	7½	13½	19½
(*403½)	420	8	20	26½	22½	28½	34
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Kingfishr	650	40	58½	69	8½	18½	25
(*677½)	700	13	31	42½	32½	41½	48½
Series		Jun			Jun		
Br Gas	220	14	—	—	13	—	—
(*222)	240	6	—	—	26	—	—
Series		Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Dixons	500	52	61½	71½	8	18½	23
(*538)	550	22½	33	44	28	40½	45½
EMI Group	1150	61½	86	100½	37½	60½	71
(*1158½)	1200	38½	63	77	65	87½	98
Tarmac	100	6	9½	10½	5½	6½	9
(*101½)	110	2½	5½	7	12½	13	15½
Hillsdwn	180	15	16½	—	5	6½	—
(*193)	200	3½	6½	—	17½	18½	—
Lonrho	130	12½	15½	18½	4	6½	8
(*138)	140	6½	10½	13½	8½	11	13
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	15½	21	24	8½	14½	17
(*264½)	280	6½	11½	15	19	26½	28½
Lloyds TSB	460	45	55½	65	7½	15	19½
(*492½)	500	21	32½	43	23	32	37
Scot Pwr	330	33	39	41½	5	10½	13½
(*354½)	360	14½	20½	24½	16½	25	27½
Unilever	1500	68½	102½	125½	25	39	48½
(*1554)	1600	22	53½	73½	81½	92½	99½

April 2, 1997 Tot: 34214 Calls: 17049 Puts: 17165 FTSE Calls: 4204 Puts: 2478
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 97	108-20	108-20	108-08	108-13	38768
Previous open interest: 174262	Sep 97				108-03	0
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 97	99.53	99.55	99.05	99.24	175645
Previous open interest: 255481	Sep 97	98.51	98.51	98.20	98.29	438
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 97	124.55	124.85	123.98	124.62	55752
Previous open interest: 108778	Sep 97	124.35	124.35	124.35	124.67	10
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	126.48	126.60	126.46	126.52	1444
	Sep 97	125.21	125.28	125.21	125.22	54
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 97	93.31	93.32	93.30	93.30	5384
	Sep 97	93.01	93.02	92.98	92.98	7588
Previous open interest: 440349	Dec 97	92.77	92.79	92.74	92.75	9770
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 97	96.74	96.76	96.73	96.75	25119
Previous open interest: 1219819	Sep 97	96.67	96.68	96.65	96.67	29665
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 97	92.78	92.94	92.74	92.91	30682
Previous open interest: 257870	Sep 97	93.05	93.19	92.99	93.16	16658
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97	99.28	99.29	99.28	99.29	50
	Dec 97	99.10	99.12	99.10	99.12	400
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 97	98.12	98.15	98.10	98.15	7238
Previous open interest: 91141	Sep 97	98.06	98.10	98.04	98.09	3223
Three Mth ECU	Jun 97	95.76	95.77	95.75	95.77	884
Previous open interest: 31315	Sep 97	95.66	95.68	95.65	95.68	397
FTSE 100	Jun 97	4237.0	4252.0	4214.0	4237.0	13615
Previous open interest: 64127	Sep 97	4252.0	4265.0	4252.0	4260.0	15

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 5 Week fixed: 6⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6 ; 3 mth 6 . Sell: 2 mth 5⅞ ; 3 mth: 5⅞ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6	6$^{3}/_{32}$-6$^{1}/_{32}$	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$	6¼-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$	6¼-6$^{3}/_{16}$	6⅜-6$^{5}/_{16}$	7-6$^{15}/_{16}$
Interbank:	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$	6¼-6$^{3}/_{16}$	6⅜-6$^{5}/_{16}$	7-6$^{15}/_{16}$

Overnight: open 6$^{1}/_{16}$, close 5 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6$^{1}/_{16}$	n/a	6$^{3}/_{16}$	6$^{5}/_{16}$	6¾
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$	6$^{3}/_{32}$-6$^{1}/_{32}$	6$^{3}/_{16}$-6⅛	6$^{3}/_{8}$-6$^{5}/_{16}$	6$^{11}/_{16}$-6⅝
Dollar CDs:	5.58	n/a	5.70	5.89	6.24
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6$^{1}/_{16}$	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6$^{13}/_{32}$-6$^{11}/_{32}$	6$^{11}/_{16}$-6$^{9}/_{16}$

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅜-5¼	5$^{11}/_{16}$-5$^{9}/_{16}$	5$^{11}/_{16}$-5$^{9}/_{16}$	5$^{15}/_{16}$-5$^{13}/_{16}$	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3$^{1}/_{16}$-3	3¼-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3⅛-2⅞
French Franc:	3$^{5}/_{16}$-3$^{3}/_{16}$	3$^{5}/_{16}$-3⅛	3$^{7}/_{16}$-3$^{5}/_{16}$	3½-3⅜	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	2-1¾	1$^{15}/_{16}$-1¾	1⅞-1¾	1⅞-1¾	2⅛-1¾
Yen:	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS

Bullion: Open $348.90-349.20 Close: $348.70-349.20 High: $349.40-349.90
Low: $348.00-348.50 AM: $349.10 PM: $348.75

Krugerrand: $348.00-351.00 (£212.00-214.00)

Platinum: $368.25 (£224.70) Silver: $4.84 (£2.945) Palladium: $146.50 (£89.40)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 3	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0788-3.0881	3.0788-3.0817	⅝-½pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Brussels	56.455-56.690	56.455-56.522	16-11pr	45-38pr
Copenhagen	10.433-10.471	10.439-10.449	⅝-⅛pr	⅞-⅜pr
Dublin	1.0383-1.0428	1.0395-1.0408	6-2pr	19-13pr
Frankfurt	2.7365-2.7447	2.7365-2.7397	⅝-½pr	2½-2pr
Lisbon	275.11-275.86	275.11-275.44	⅛-⅛ds	⅛-⅛ds
Madrid	231.59-232.35	231.59-231.89	12-2pr	38-20pr
Milan	2715.5-2727.4	2715.5-2718.1	20-35ds	60-82ds
Montreal	2.2694-2.2782	2.2756-2.2778	0.57-0.52pr	1.15-1.06pr
New York	1.6398-1.6430	1.6408-1.6418	0.675-0.475pr	0.228-0.197pr
Oslo	11.133-11.221	11.133-11.151	⅜-⅛pr	⅞-⅜pr
Paris	9.2180-9.2490	9.2188-9.2294	2⅛-2pr	7-6½pr
Stockholm	12.442-12.555	12.442-12.462	⅝-⅛pr	⅝-⅛pr
Tokyo	201.12-201.64	201.34-201.64	⅝-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Vienna	19.258-19.321	19.260-19.283	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.3500-2.3637	2.3523-2.3550	⅝-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2836-1.2853
Austria	11.74-11.75
Belgium (Com)	34.43-34.47
Canada	1.3858-1.3863
Denmark	6.3610-6.3630
France	5.6202-5.6212
Germany	1.6678-1.6682
Hong Kong	7.7472-7.7482
Ireland	1.5782-1.5792
Italy	1655.90-1656.90
Japan	122.58-122.63
Malaysia	2.4854-2.4864
Netherlands	1.8763-1.8768
Norway	6.7937-6.8009
Portugal	167.60-167.70
Singapore	1.4337-1.4347
Spain	141.20-141.25
Sweden	7.5955-7.6030
Switzerland	1.4320-1.4330

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6415-1.6442
Australia dollar	2.1069-2.1096
Bahrain dinar	0.6130-0.6250
Brazil real*	1.7355-1.7400
China yuan	13.459-13.759
Cyprus pound	0.8160-0.8260
Finland markka	8.1875-8.3035
Greece drachma	433.25-440.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.7170-12.7264
India rupee	58.49-59.45
Indonesia rupiah	3915.0-3983.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4925-0.5025
Malaysia ringgit	4.0788-4.0834
New Zealand dollar	2.3681-2.3733
Pakistan rupee	65.35 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9150-6.0390
Singapore dollar	2.3528-2.2559
S Africa rand (com)	7.2120-7.3140
U A E dirham	5.6975-6.0915

Barclays Bank GTS • *Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,300	Land Secs	3,100
ASDA Gp	9,500	Legal & Gn	1,900
Abbey Ntl	2,500	Lloyds TSB	11,300
Allied Dom	2,900	LucasVarity	5,600
AB Foods	717	*Marks Spr*	4,900
BAA	1,400	Mercury Asset	899
BAT Inds	5,200	NatWst Bk	7,000
BG	12,200	Nat Grid	3,100
BOC	3,400	Nat Power	3,400
BP	8,000	Next	1,900
BSkyB	3,600	Orange	1,300
BTR	5,300	*P & O*	2,600
BT	19,200	Pearson	1,000
Bk of Scot	5,000	PowerGen	2,900
Barclays	5,500	Prudential	2,900
Bass	922	RMC	542
Blue Circle	1,100	RTZ	3,500
Boots	2,000	Railtrack	1,400
BAe	2,400	*Rank Group*	5,700
BA	3,700	Reckitt Col	1,200
British Land	550	Reed Intl	901
Brit Steel	26,300	Rentokil	2,200
Burmah Cstl	431	Reuters	3,800
Burton	1,800	Rolls Royce	4,500
Cable Wire	2,000	Royal & Sun	2,500
Cadbury	2,800	Royal Bk Sct	1,100
Carlton Cms	877	Safeway	3,400
Centrica	12,300	Sainsbury	1,800
Cm Union	2,100	Schroders	89
Dixons	5,300	Scot & New	1,000
EMI	796	Scot Power	2,300
Energy Grp	2,400	Svrn Trent	1,000
Enterpr Oil	1,700	Shell Trans	4,200
GKN	728	Siebe	1,700
GRE	2,100	SmKl Bch	5,300
GUS	1,900	Smith Nph	1,600
Gen Acc	1,000	Smiths Inds	2,600
Gen Elec	4,500	Std Chartd	2,300
Glaxo Well	5,800	TI Gp	345
Granada	3,400	Tate & Lyle	592
Grand Met	4,700	Tesco	2,700
Guinness	4,500	Thames W	1,700
HSBC	1,600	Tomkins	1,200
Hanson	4,500	Unilever	2,300
Hays	787	Utd Utilities	1,900
ICI	5,600	Utd News	1,000
Imp Tob	2,500	Vodafone	5,000
Kingfisher	1,100	*Whitbread*	1,300
LASMO	4,500	Wolseley	678
Ladbroke	1,500	Zeneca	1,600

WALL STREET

	Apr 3 midday	Apr 2 close
AMP Inc	33¾	34
AMR Corp	81¼	81
ASA	33¾	33¼
AT & T	34	34¼
Abbott Labs	55⅞	55⅞
Advanced Micro	37¾	39¼
Aetna Life	85¼	86¼
Ahmanson (HF)	36	36½
Air Prod & Chem	66¼	66¾
AirTouch Comm	22⅛	22¾
Alberto-Culver B	25⅞	25⅞
Albertson's	33⅞	33⅞
Alcan Alumnm	33⅞	33⅞
Allied Signal	70¾	70½
Alum Co of Am	68¾	68¾
Amax Gold Inc	6⅞	6⅞
Amerada Hess	51¼	51⅞
Amer Brands	49⅞	49⅞
Amer El Power	41⅞	41⅞
Amer Express	58⅞	58⅞
Amer Genl Corp	39⅜	39⅜
Amer Home Pr	60	60
Amer Intl	114¼	114¼
Amer Stores	43	43
Amer Standard	45⅛	45⅛
Ameritech	59⅞	59⅞
Amoco	85⅞	86
Anheuser-Busch	42⅛	42⅛
Apple Computer	18⅞	18
Archer Daniels	17⅞	17⅞
Armco	3⅞	4
Armstrng Wrld	63¾	64¼
Asarco	28	28
Atl Richfield	131⅞	132⅛
Auto Data Pro	41⅞	41⅞
Avery Dennison	38⅞	38⅞
Avon Products	51¼	51⅞
Baker Hughes	36⅞	36⅞
Baltim Gas & El	26⅞	26⅞
Banc One	40	40
BankAmerica	100⅞	100⅞
Bank of NY	35⅞	35⅛
Bankers Tr NY	81	80⅞
Barnett Banks	46⅞	46⅞
Bausch & Lomb	37⅞	37⅞
Baxter Intl	43⅞	43⅞
Becton Dicknsn	44⅞	44⅞
Bell Atlantic	59⅞	59
Bell Industries	17⅞	17⅞
BellSouth	42	41⅞
Black & Decker	30⅞	30⅞
Block (H&R)	30⅞	30⅞
Boeing	97⅞	98⅛
Boise Cascade	29⅞	29⅞
Bristol Myrs Sq	61⅞	60⅞
Browning Ferris	29⅞	29
Brunswick	26⅞	26⅛
Burlington Nthn	74⅞	73⅞
CMS Energy Corp	32⅛	32⅞
CNA Financial	103⅞	103⅞
CPC Intl	79⅛	80⅞
CSX	46⅛	46⅞
Campbell Soup	47⅞	47⅞
Can Pacific	23⅛	23⅞
Carolina Pwr	36⅞	36⅞
Caterpillar	78⅞	78⅞
Central & SW	20⅞	20⅞
Champion Intl	43⅞	43⅞
Chase Manhat	92⅞	92⅞
Chevron Corp	65⅞	67⅞
Chrysler	30	30
Chubb Corp	51⅛	51⅞
Cigna Corp	144⅞	145⅞
Citicorp	110⅞	110
Clorox	113⅞	113⅞
Coastal Corp	46⅞	47⅞
Coca Cola	55⅞	56
Coca Cola Ent	59⅞	58⅞
Colgate-Palm	103⅞	103⅞
Columbia Gas	57⅞	58⅞
ColumbiaHCA	32⅞	31⅞
Compaq Comp	72⅞	73
Comp Ass Int	38⅞	38
ConAgra	54	54⅞
Conrail	113	113
Cons Edison	29⅞	29⅞
Cons Nat Gas	49⅞	49⅞
Cooper Inds	43⅞	43⅞
Corestates	47⅞	47⅞
Corning Inc	43⅞	44
Crown Cork	52⅞	52⅞
Dana Corp	32	32⅞
Dayton Hudson	42⅞	41⅞
Deere	44	43⅞
Delta Air Lines	84⅞	85
Deluxe Corp	32⅞	32⅞
Digital Equip	26	25⅞
Dillard Dept St	30⅞	30⅞
Disney (Walt)	72⅞	72⅞
Dominion Res	35⅞	35⅞
Donnelley (RR)	33⅞	33⅞
Dover Corp	52⅞	52⅞
Dow Chemical	80⅞	79⅞
Dow Jones	41⅞	41⅞
Dresser	29⅞	29⅞
Duke Power	44⅞	44⅞
Dun & Bradstreet	24⅞	24⅞
Du Pont	104⅞	103
Eastman Chem	53⅞	53⅞
Eastman Kodak	74⅞	74⅞

	Apr 3 midday	Apr 2 close
Eaton Corp	69	69⅛
Edison Intl	21⅞	22
Elect Data Sys	38⅞	38⅞
Emerson Elec	45⅞	46⅞
Engelhard Corp	20⅞	20⅞
Enron Corp	38	38
Entergy	24	24⅛
Ethyl Corp	8⅛	8⅛
Exxon	104⅞	105
FMC Corp	61⅞	61⅞
FPL Group	43⅞	43⅞
Federal Express	50⅞	50⅞
First Bk Sys	72⅞	72⅞
First Union Rlty	13	13⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	57⅞	57⅞
Fluor Corp	51⅞	50⅞
Ford Motor	30⅞	31
GTE Corp	45⅞	45⅞
Gannett	84⅞	85⅞
Gap Inc Del	32⅞	32⅞
Gencorp	18⅞	18⅞
Gen Dynamics	64⅞	65⅞
Gen Electric	97⅞	97⅞
Gen Mills	61	61
Gen Motors	54⅞	54⅞
Gen Reinsurance	155⅞	156⅞
Gen Signal	37⅞	37⅞
Genuine Parts	45⅞	45⅞
Georgia Pac	72⅞	72⅞
Gillette	76⅞	77⅞
Glaxo Wellc ADR	35⅞	35⅞
Goodrich (BF)	35⅞	35⅞
Goodyear Tire	51⅞	52⅞
Grt Atl Pac Tea	24⅞	24⅞
Great Wstn Fin	40⅞	40⅞
Halliburton	66⅞	67
Harcourt General	44⅞	45
Heinz (HJ)	39⅞	39⅞
Hercules	40⅞	40⅞
Hershey Foods	49⅞	49⅞
Hewlett Packard	49⅞	50⅞
Hilton Hotels	25	25⅞
Home Depot	53⅞	53
Homestake Mng	14⅞	15
Honeywell	67⅞	67⅞
Household Intl	82⅞	82⅞
Houston Inds	20⅞	20⅞
Humana	20⅞	20⅞
ITT Corp	59⅞	59⅞
Ikon Office	31⅞	32⅞
Illinois Tool	85	85⅞
Illinova	22⅞	22⅞
INCO	32⅞	32⅞
Ingersoll Rand	42	42⅞
Inland Steel	18⅞	18⅞
Intel Corp	137⅞	137
IBM	131⅞	133⅞
Intl Flav & Fr	41⅞	42⅞
Intl Paper	39⅞	39⅞
James River Va	29⅞	29⅞
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	54⅞	54⅞
Kellogg	65⅞	65⅞
Kerr-McGee	60⅞	60⅞
Kimberly-Clark	51⅞	101⅞
Kmart	11⅞	11⅞
Knight-Ridder	39⅞	39⅞
Lilly (Eli)	81⅞	81⅞
Limited Inc	17⅞	18
Lincoln Nat	52⅞	53
Litton	39⅞	39⅞
Liz Claiborne	43⅞	43⅞
Lockheed Martin	81	81⅞
Louisiana Pac	19⅞	20⅞
MCI Comm	36	35⅞
Manpower Inc	36⅞	36⅞
Marriott Int	50⅞	50⅞
Marsh & McLnn	118	117⅞
Masco Corp	36⅞	36
May Dept St	45⅞	45⅞
Maytag Corp	20⅞	20⅞
McDonalds	47⅞	47⅞
McDonnell D	60⅞	60⅞
McGraw Hill	51⅞	51⅞
Mead Corp	52	52⅞
Medtronic	61⅞	61⅞
Mellon Bk	72⅞	72⅞
Merck Inc	84⅞	85⅞
Merrill Lynch	85⅞	85⅞
Microsoft	91⅞	92
Minnesota Mine	84	84⅞
Mobil Corp	126⅞	128⅞
Monsanto	37⅞	37⅞
Morgan (JP)	97⅞	96⅞
Motorola Inc	59	58⅞
Natl Semi	27⅞	27
Natl Service Ind	39⅞	39
Navistar Int	9⅞	9⅞
NY Times A	43⅞	43⅞
Newmont Mng	40⅞	40⅞
Niag Mohawk	8⅞	8⅞
Nike B	60⅞	61
NL Industries	10⅞	10⅞
Noram Energy	14⅞	14⅞
Nordstrom	38⅞	38⅞
Norfolk Sthrn	87⅞	88
Nthn State Pwr	46⅞	47⅞
Norwest Corp	45⅞	45⅞
Nynex Corp	44⅞	44⅞
Occidental Pet	24	24
Ohio Edison	20⅞	20⅞

	Apr 3 midday	Apr 2 close
Oracle	36⅞	36⅞
Oryx Energy Co	18⅞	18⅞
Overseas Ship	17⅞	17⅞
Owens Corning	38⅞	38⅞
PHH Corp	45⅞	45⅞
PPG Industries	52⅞	52⅞
PNC Bank	39⅞	39⅞
PP&L Res	20⅞	20⅞
Paccar Inc	67⅞	67
Pacificorp	20⅞	20⅞
Pac Enterprises	30⅞	30⅞
Pall Corp	23	23⅞
Parker Hannifin	41⅞	42⅞
Peco Energy	20⅞	20⅞
Penney (JC)	46⅞	47⅞
Pennzoil	50	49⅞
Pepsico	31⅞	31⅞
Pfizer	83⅞	83⅞
Pharm & Upjhn	36⅞	35⅞
Phelps Dodge	73	73⅞
Philip Morris	114⅞	114⅞
Phillips Pet	40⅞	40⅞
Pitney Bowes	56⅞	56⅞
Polaroid	38⅞	38⅞
Procter & Gmbl	115⅞	115⅞
Providian	54⅞	54⅞
Pub Serv E & G	26⅞	26⅞
Quaker Oats	36⅞	36⅞
Ralston Purina	76⅞	77⅞
Raychem Corp	80⅞	81⅞
Raytheon	45⅞	45⅞
Reebok Intl	43⅞	43⅞
Reynolds Metals	62⅞	63
Rockwell Intl	63⅞	64⅞
Rohm & Haas	74⅞	74
Royal Dutch	172⅞	171⅞
Rubbermaid	24⅞	24⅞
SBC Comms	51⅞	52⅞
Safeco Corp	39	39⅞
St Paul's Cos	64⅞	64⅞
Salomon Inc	52⅞	52⅞
Sara Lee Corp	40⅞	40⅞
Schering Plough	73	73
Schlumberger	105⅞	106⅞
Seagram	37⅞	37⅞
Sears Roebuck	49⅞	49⅞
Shell Trans	103⅞	103⅞
Sherwin Wlms	26⅞	26⅞
Skyline Corp	22⅞	22⅞
Snap-On-Tools	37⅞	37⅞
Southern Co	21⅞	21⅞
Sprint Corp	44⅞	44⅞
Stanley Works	37⅞	37
Sun Company	24⅞	25⅞
Sun Microsys	27⅞	27⅞
Suntrust	45⅞	45⅞
Supervalu	29⅞	29⅞
Sysco Corp	33⅞	33⅞
TRW Inc	90⅞	90⅞
TCC Inds	1⅞	1⅞
Tandem Comp	11⅞	11⅞
Tandy Corp	49⅞	49⅞
Temple Inland	51⅞	51⅞
Tenneco	39	39
Texaco	105⅞	105⅞
Texas Inst	74⅞	74⅞
Texas Utilities	33⅞	33⅞
Textron	102⅞	102⅞
Time Warner	42⅞	42⅞
Times-Mirror A	55⅞	55⅞
Timken	53	53⅞
Torchmark	54⅞	54⅞
Toys R Us	26⅞	26⅞
Transamerica	85⅞	85⅞
Travelers	47⅞	47⅞
Tribune	41⅞	41⅞
Tyco Intl	54⅞	54⅞
UST Inc	27⅞	27⅞
UAL	65	65
US Inds	32⅞	32⅞
US West Comm	33⅞	33⅞
US West Media	17⅞	17⅞
USAirways Group	24⅞	24⅞
USX Marathon	27⅞	27⅞
Unicom	19⅞	19⅞
Unilever NV	180⅞	180⅞
Union Camp	45⅞	45⅞
Union Carbide	43⅞	43⅞
Union Pacific	57⅞	57⅞
Unisys Corp	6⅞	6⅞
USF&G Corp	20⅞	21⅞
US Life	46	45⅞
United Tech	75⅞	76⅞
Unocal Corp	39⅞	39⅞
VF Corp	65⅞	65⅞
WMX Tech	31⅞	31⅞
Wal-Mart Stores	27⅞	27⅞
Warner-Lambert	85⅞	85⅞
Wells Fargo	270⅞	278⅞
Westinghouse El	18⅞	18⅞
Weyerhaeuser	44⅞	44⅞
Whirlpool	46⅞	46⅞
Whitman	23⅞	23⅞
Winn Dixie	32⅞	32⅞
Woolworth	22⅞	22⅞
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	56⅞	57⅞
Xerox	56⅞	56⅞
Yellow Corp	19⅞	19⅞
Zenith Elect	10⅞	9⅞

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاعل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Safaris after the City jungle

PIERRE Mourgue d'Algue is trading his City monkey suit for a pair of khaki shorts. The dashing managing director and co-founder of LatInvest has turned down a substantial sweetener to spend another five years with the investment bank, bought last year by Banco Bilbao Vizacaya, in favour of the African bush. After hunting with the vultures at Citicorp, Hoare Govett, and Schroders, Mourgue d'Algue, 37, wants to build up his "ecofriendly" safari business, operating out of Galdessa Camp, Kenya. With plans to build a ranch in South Africa and set up a hotels agency in Switzerland, it comes as a surprise to hear Mourgue d'Algue liken himself to an elephant. "Zey are solitary animals," he smooches, "zey set their sights on something, zen go for it."

Mourgue d'Algue likens himself to an elephant

Conroy's gold

PROFESSOR Richard Conroy is back in the public eye, almost two years to the day since leaving Arcon International Resources, the mining company that he founded. The former Irish senator and Professor of Physiology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, is listing his new company on Ofex. Conroy Diamonds and Gold's main asset is a gold prospect at Clontibret, Co Monaghan, valued in the £3.6 million to £5.5 million range. Conroy is now planning to tap 90 to 100 holes in the lucrative-looking vein.

Survivor's medal

TORY sleaze stories are welcome at one company, at least. Jean Manson Souvenirs, a Surrey firm that sells trinkets to cathedral and museum shops, is trying desperately to clear its shelves of 986 keyrings engraved "Tory Rule Survivor's Medal". Cast three years ago, in a fit of pique, before the economic upturn and unemployment downturn, Mike Hanson, the company's head, thought the political souvenirs had past their sell-by date. He has awarded 14 medals to seriously deserving individuals but, inspired by recent scandals, he is selling the remainder at 80p each.

PETER WARD and Michael Hickey are on the move. The dynamic corporate financiers, at Quilter Goodison before it was snapped up in 1986 by Banque Paribas, where they have worked until now specialising in property, are off to the English Trust Company.

Croft award

AN ENGLISH computer networking company has fallen foul of the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts, and Sciences. The announcement from Croft on the World Wide Web that it had won a "Computer Industry Oscar" sent shockwaves through the Internet. Phil Renton, Croft managing director, received an angry letter from Ladas and Parry, the New York law firm acting for the Californian-based Academy, pointing out that "Oscar" is a trade name owned by the Academy. Croft had in fact won "Digital Reseller of the Year".

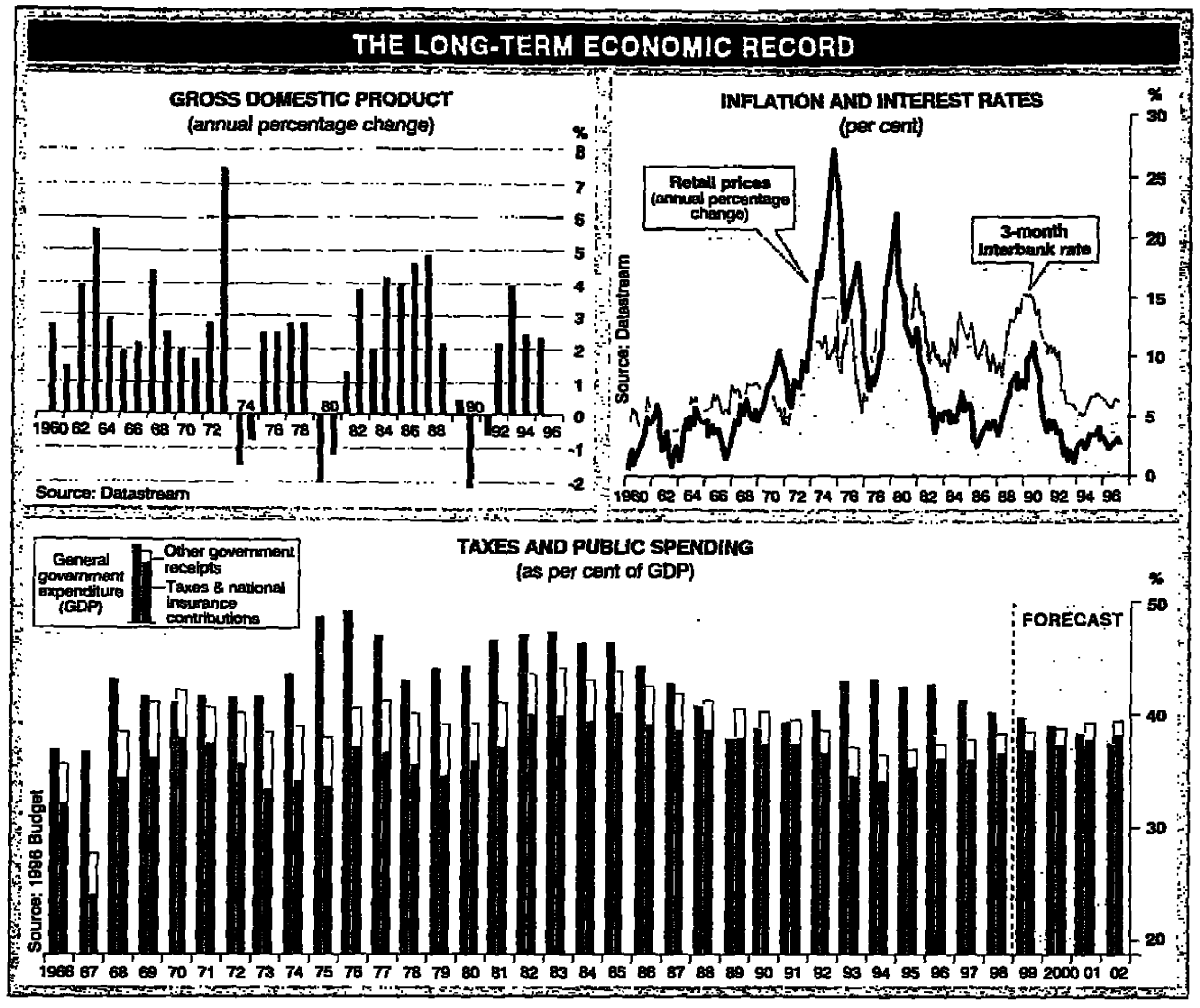
MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Major finds it's too late to look beyond the pocketbook

The Tories have failed to win credit for their economic successes



Poor John Major: the universal scepticism provoked by his launch of the Tory manifesto on Tuesday said it all about the electoral rout he now faces. The easy ride Tony Blair enjoyed yesterday, by contrast, suggested why Labour is well on the way to winning with the biggest majority enjoyed by any British governing party since the Second World War. The key point is simple enough. The Tories, despite their success in managing the economy since White Wednesday, are judged to be incompetent, unreliable and dishonest. Against this list of negatives, the Labour Party does not need to offer any positive distinctive policies. To win, Mr Blair has only to present a reassuring air of self-deprecation and speak frankly about how little he can realistically promise to achieve.

But why has Labour found it so easy to neutralise the good economic record? And why do voters now seem so unmoved by Tory promises of further tax cuts — especially ones carefully crafted to reinforce their image as a party of family values?

The manifesto launches suggested some answers. Challenged to explain why he had failed to keep the promises on taxes and exchange-rate stability that he made in the 1992 election manifesto, Mr Major recited a laundry-list of economic achievements which he *had* delivered and had not even promised or imagined possible five years ago: Britain now has the strongest economy in Europe; the lowest interest rates in a generation and Europe's best record on unemployment.

These claims are broadly true, though not as conclusive as Mr Major suggests. Britain's performance in relation to other European economies was discussed at length in this column two weeks ago. Britain has certainly performed better than Germany, France or Italy since the 1992 recession, but, taking the whole 18-year period since 1979, Britain's record is very similar to the Continent's in terms of both growth and employment. However, Britain's performance in relation to the rest of the world is now unquestionably better than it was in the 1960s. Thirty years ago, Britain consistently lagged behind every other OECD country. Indeed there was only one year between 1960 and 1982 in which Britain's GDP growth exceeded the OECD average. Since 1983, by contrast, Britain's growth rate has beaten the OECD average in 8 out of 15 years — although it has also suffered more economic instability than any other country.

But the Tories' failure to capitalise on their economic record cannot be explained by such esoteric arguments about statistics. There is a much simpler explanation: the Government's failure to gain any credit for its undoubted economic achievements is entirely Mr Major's fault.

The fundamental cause goes back to the monetarist mantra of the 1980s: that government policy could do nothing to stimulate economic growth, to overcome recessions or to create employment. By the time Mr Major became Prime Minister, the public had finally been cowed into believing this nonsense. The fateful decision to join the European exchange-rate mechanism was the traumatic event which etched this delusion indelibly in the national psyche, just as the race towards European Monetary Union is today the symbol of the same madness in Germany and France. When Britain left the ERM and suddenly adopted a sensible and pragmatic policy of active demand management, Mr Major had a golden opportunity to claim credit for the Damascene conversion. But this would have required an open repudiation of the ERM, monetary union and the whole panoply of monetarist dogma which Mr Major learnt by rote in his years at the Treasury. The Prime Minister preferred to brazen it out. He pretended that nothing much had changed — his policies had been right all along and if anything *had* happened, it was all the fault of the Germans. As they observed the growing divergence between economic reality and government rhetoric after White Wednesday, it was hardly surprising that people decided Mr Major did not know what he was doing and was not to be trusted. It was even more predictable that the tenuous link between government popularity and economic performance broke down completely after September 1992.

To cap it all, Mr Major, in his panic after White Wednesday, also allowed the Bank of England to promote the idea that decisions on monetary policy should be taken out of the hands of politicians and put under the technocratic control of an independent central bank. He thus lost all the possible credit for his one unquestionable economic achievement — low inflation. Worse still, from the Tory standpoint, he simultaneously neutralised the voters' traditional fear that a Labour government would mean rising prices and high mortgage rates.

But it is not only for the failure to capitalise on general economic management that the Tories should blame Mr Major. In Wednesday's manifesto launch, Mr Major also faced a barrage of hostile questioning about his perfectly reasonable (though far from perfect) proposal to offer a tax concession to encourage marriage. The main criticism was mindless but well deserved: Where will the money come from? This is, of course, exactly the phrase which Mr Major has used to heckle every Labour policy proposal on any subject, from devolution for Scotland and London to reforming teacher training or changing the ways that children are taught. It is a mindless phrase which has completely stifled all rational debate in Britain about setting the right priorities in public spending and reforming the tax structure. Now Mr Major is getting a taste of his own medicine.

Where the money will come from is not the crucial issue about a policy which is supposed to change the balance between different types of taxes, rather than reduce the total tax burden. Anyway, Mr Major made the source of the money clear enough: the new marriage allowance would take precedence over his earlier pledges to reduce the standard rate of income tax. By implication, therefore, the marriage allowance could be financed in the same way as the reductions in tax rates have been in the past — by whittling away other tax privileges or by raising indirect taxes. The right question to ask about the marriage allowance, therefore, is not where the money will come from, but whether a sound public purpose is served by modestly redistributing the burden of taxes from people who are married to those who are not.

In the past this question would generally have been answered in the affirmative. Marriage is a desirable social institution, because it entails, by definition, a more explicit commitment than mere cohabitation to stay together and bring up children. It seems perfectly reasonable, therefore, that the tax system should recognise the marriage contract and should modestly favour marriage — as indeed the British tax system did until 1990 and the European and American systems still generally do.

In Britain today, however, such views are treated with a mixture of indignation and sneering contempt, as Mr Major found to his cost on Wednesday. After fending off all the questions about "where the money will come from", he faced another line of attack which used to be reserved for Tory campaigns against Labour: was the Government proposing to use taxes for "social engineering"? Was public money to be directed at non-economic objectives?

The answer to these questions should have been a clear "yes". There is nothing wrong with social engineering. It is what governments are elected to do, whether by providing education and health or by supporting the poor. Taxes and public spending exist to express social preferences, to achieve non-economic objectives and to override market forces. But such arguments have been forgotten after 18 years of free-market fundamentalism which elevated economics above politics and made an anathema of social policy. Mr Major, having shot himself in the foot on economics, may now want to move British politics beyond pocketbook issues. But his conversion has come too late.

> 6 Taxes and public spending exist to express social preferences 9

Western firms tackle the last frontier

Sarah Cunningham in Moscow looks at moving into the Russian market

For a British company, tackling the Russian market for the first time is a nerve-racking experience. Everyone — up to and including, it seems, the Queen — recognises that it is an unusually dangerous place to do business.

When the Queen attended the official opening of a Boots building and was told the its healthcare arm was about to launch its Nurofen painkiller in Russia she reportedly asked — presumably prompted by lurid tales of the Russian mafia — whether this was not a risky matter.

The answer is that indeed it is. But according to Western businessmen working in Russia and in other republics within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) the risks are as much to do with an underdeveloped distribution network, confusing tax and property laws, spiralling costs and late-paid bills as with organised crime.

However, the risks and high costs are not deterring Western companies. Mesmerised by the CIS's abundant natural resources and its 300 million consumers, with more than 140 million in Russia alone, they have poured in during the Nineties. Unilever, which sells goods from Sunsilk shampoo to Brooke Bond tea in the former Soviet Union, calls it "the largest untapped market in the world... the last frontier". It also calls it "an unpredictable and difficult place to do business"

Arian Alikhani, an Englishman who runs two trading firms in Russia and has lived in Moscow for five years, says there were 30,000 Western residents, mainly diplomats, in Moscow when he arrived. Now there are more than 200,000, many of them businessmen.

Boots is spending £10 million on this week's Nurofen launch in St Petersburg and Moscow, which is much more than it would spend on a comparable launch in the West.

It believes that as the first branded ibuprofen painkiller to be sold in Russia, it will have an opportunity to get and keep market leadership. Advil, the leading US ibuprofen brand, is expected on the Russian market next year.

Experience shows, Boots says, that the first to arrive stays first in the market. Unilever, Smith Kline Beecham and Colgate have been attacking the East European toothpaste markets one by one. And in each case the first in has won.

Cost is now the biggest single barrier to entry in Russia, Mr Alikhani says. "The potential [for Boots] is good, but it will have to be prepared to spend a lot. You need deep pockets." Companies also need to find a good local partner, he says, something Boots, which has tested the Russian market with throat lozenges, believes it has already done.

His father, Masoud Alikhani, is chief executive of Middlesex Holdings, a company that has built up a range of interests in the CIS, from aluminium to financial services, and which floated on the London Stock Exchange last year.

The elder Mr Alikhani has been visiting Russia every few weeks for the past nine years and has been stunned by the rise in costs. He says: "A meal used to cost $1, now it costs $70 to $80 a head. A flat in central Moscow was $12,000, now it is $350,000 to $500,000."

An added cost for Western companies is paying for private security. It is normal and quite legal for groups of armed guards to be hired to protect warehouses, shops and offices and bodyguards are also widely used.

Murders of top Russian bankers and businessmen are frequent and although fewer foreigners are targeted, there have been enough incidents to make people who would never bother in London or New York depend on bodyguards in Moscow.

Masoud Alikhani never uses them and reckons that the gangster problem is exaggerated. He thinks that it was much worse earlier this decade, just after the collapse of the Soviet system. He thinks many of the criminals are moving into the business mainstream. "There aren't many Al Capones now," he says.

He admits, however, that he has turned down offers to become involved in Russian businesses where he suspects he would run up against the mafia. These include lotteries, casinos, and retail operations. Cigarette and alcohol distribution are also largely controlled by organised crime.

After the lifting of import restrictions, the black market for branded goods such as Levis and Rayban sunglasses is not what it was. But the enthusiasm for Western brands — from jeans to soap — has not died down. There is still a strong preference for foreign rather than locally made goods and they can command premium prices.

This, Boots likes to think, is where the company comes in. Barry Clare, managing director of Boots Healthcare International, says the company has no ambitions to sell to every Russian. The target market for ibuprofen is only twoand three million people in Russia.

For the average person, Nurofen will cost the equivalent of about £2 for a pack of 12 — ten times the cost of a locally made painkiller. Only the wealthy will be able to afford Western cures for their Russian-produced headaches and hangovers.

> 6 The potential is good, but you need deep pockets 9

Jon Ashworth voices fears over anti-fraud proposals

Teamwork or dangerous liaisons?

Allcock: sent to prison for five years

The Conservatives have singled out crime in the City as a post-election target, but the weaponry they have in mind is questionable. The election manifesto pledges to bring forward a package of measures designed to modernise the current systems for dealing with City fraud.

New legislation would allow the Inland Revenue to pass confidential information to the police, the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and other financial regulators to assist in the investigation of serious financial fraud.

Fine in principle, were it not for the case of Michael Allcock, the Inland Revenue investigator jailed for five years in February for taking kick-backs in his dealings with supposed tax evaders. Transcripts from his trial show the extent to which this sharing of information could be used to threaten individuals for personal gain.

Trial witnesses told how information was exchanged between the Stock Exchange surveillance division and the Inland Revenue's Special Office 2. In one instance, an anonymous property developer held a meeting with a Stock Exchange official in a pub in Oxford Circus, central London, and asked for help in "cutting a deal" with the Revenue over a £70,000 tax bill.

If the Stock Exchange were to intercede, the informant would blow the whistle on an insider dealing ring that had allegedly netted several million pounds for the participants.

Allcock told the court that Alan Wilson, a member of the Stock Exchange insider dealing group, telephoned him to say that he had monitored some enormous share transactions, performed through Swiss companies and involving £650 million. Wilson had a contact who could identify who was behind the transactions, but the contact "had a tax problem" and wanted to know whether it could be "sorted out" in return for evidence.

The person behind the share transactions was "somebody prominent in the investment world". The approach was made in September 1989.

What the court did not hear was that the same month Richard Cook, Allcock's "right-hand man" at the Inland Revenue, rang John Gwyer, then head of tax investigations at Coopers & Lybrand, which acted for Asil Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck International.

Cook claimed to have obtained information from the Stock Exchange about alleged share-ramping of Polly Peck shares by Nadir, using offshore front companies. The tone was, settle up and none of this will come out. The approach took place a year before the SFO raid on South Audley Management (SAM), which handled Nadir's private financial affairs.

Increasingly aggressive correspondence culminated in a meeting at Coopers & Lybrand in April 1990. Cook produced lists of transactions in Polly Peck shares and made vague references to people coming to London to collect cash. The upshot was: co-operate or we'll have the largest investigation ever imposed by the Inland Revenue.

In September 1990, the SFO launched its ill-fated dawn raid on the SAM offices. Shares in Polly Peck were swiftly suspended after losing more than half their value in one day.

The suspicion — and it is no more than that — is that the Stock Exchange tipped off the SFO, which blundered in without thinking through the consequences. The Nadir line is that Polly Peck would still be prospering were it not for the SFO raid. Others will recall Nadir's abortive share buyback, coupled with the subsequent discovery of a "black hole" in the Polly Peck accounts.

Whatever, the mere suspicion that the sharing of information between regulators contributed to the collapse of a leading company, suggests the need for caution. The Revenue claims to have tightened its internal procedures, but the risk remains. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

The European Parliament announces that for procedural reasons it has reissued the call for tenders in connection with the furniture and artificial plants for the European Parliament Information Centre (library and ancillary services) in the Leopold Complex in Brussels, comprising counters, shelving, tables, seats, armchairs,shelves, drawer units and office accessories such as coat-stands,wastepaper baskets, trolleys etc...

The same announcement has already been published in English in The Times at the beginning of March 1997.

The deadline for the submission of tenders, initially set at 1 April 1997, has been put back to 16 May 1997.

The notice was sent to the Official Journal on 5 February 1997 and the notice correcting the deadline was sent on 25 March.

A visit to the site is set for 15 April 1997

Further information may be obtained from Mr Dino CANTOREGGI, Head of the Buildings Technical Management Division in Brussels, Fax (+32) (0) 2 2844966 quoting the reference 'Epicentre'.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	715.90	761.60	- 5.20	2.39
General Inc	593.00	631.00	- 4.30	2.39
UK Growth Acc	495.70	527.40	- 4.00	2.51
UK Growth Inc	320.90	341.40	- 2.50	2.51
Higher Inc Acc	883.20	939.60	- 4.90	4.00
Higher Inc Inc	470.50	500.60	- 2.50	4.00
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	213.40	225.40	- 0.40	5.87
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	91.21	96.34	- 0.19	5.87
Nth America	336.60	358.10	- 4.30	
Europe	385.30	409.90	- 5.70	0.31
Brit Excel	97.63	103.90	- 0.70	2.64
Brit Fxdmtls Acc	124.80	132.80	- 0.50	4.65
Brit Fxdmtls Inc	82.28	87.54	- 0.37	4.65
Global Opps	101.80	108.40	- 0.60	
Balanced Acc	65.44	69.62	- 0.37	2.39
Balanced Inc	60.53	64.40	- 0.34	2.39
Japan Acc	37.75	40.17	+ 0.20	
Pac Basin Acc	372.30	396.10	- 2.00	1.02
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	131.10	139.10†	- 0.10	6.69
High Inc Equity	191.50	204.80†	- 1.50	4.64
Worldwide Bond	263.20	279.10	+ 0.40	4.30
American Growth	401.00	428.80	- 2.39	0.39
Asian Pacific	312.10	333.80	- 2.20	0.41
Assets & Earnings	313.00	334.80	- 2.80	2.82
Euro Capital Acc	198.10	209.70	- 4.20	0.75
Extra Inc	42.67	45.39†	- 0.11	8.06
General	285.70	303.80	- 2.60	3.02
Global Opps	71.83	76.41	- 0.67	0.52
Japan	88.30	94.44	+ 0.45	
Managed Inc	48.63	51.73†	- 0.27	4.35
Mastertrust	171.10	183.00	- 0.90	1.31
UK Emerging Cos	165.60	177.30	- 0.90	
Ethical	85.78	91.38	- 0.79	1.61
International	134.10	142.70	- 1.10	0.61
Dividend & Growth	71.57	76.14	- 0.58	4.41
Global Gwth & Sec	75.03	80.04	+ 0.08	2.52
Latin America	78.87	83.90	+ 0.43	0.46
Capital Reserve	148.20	148.20		4.72
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	95.61	101.70	- 0.68	2.36
Equity Income	134.70	143.20	- 1.10	4.20
Extra Income	260.90	277.50	- 1.90	6.49
Smaller Cos	111.60	118.70†	.	1.51
International	114.60	121.90	- 1.30	1.42
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2528.00	2627.00	- 0.29	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	60.98	63.28†	- 0.58	.
Emerging Mkts	76.27	79.44	- 0.15	0.04
European	158.60	164.80	- 1.80	
Extra Income #	50.87	53.54†	- 0.22	8.08
Far East Emg Eco	124.70	130.80	- 0.78	0.48
Fixed Interest #	26.57	27.58	+ 0.03	8.81
Fund Inv Tst #	164.20	172.30†		0.64
Japan	154.90	160.90	+ 0.60	..
Latin American	67.62	70.35	+ 0.41	0.69
Pacific	78.22	82.11†	- 0.32	0.32
Property Share	79.81	83.79	- 0.23	2.10
UK Emerging Cos	71.33	77.10	+ 0.04	1.25
UK Growth	58.13	60.54†	- 0.41	1.94
Aber World Port #	84.34	86.27	- 0.36	2.88
Ethical	80.12	83.33	+ 0.07	2.12
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	49.91	49.96†	+ 0.06	7.42
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Randll Property #	99.36	105.70†		5.37
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	95.95	101.80†	- 0.26	1.98
Income Builder Inc	84.52	89.91	- 0.53	3.89
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	153.74	165.32	- 1.12	0.79
UK Equity	101.74	108.67†	- 0.62	3.27
UK Equity & Bd	60.27	63.87	- 0.28	6.30
UK Small Cos	54.22	57.99†	- 0.12	1.62
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	805.07	817.33	.	4.21
Inv Fd Acc	805.07	817.23		..
Fxd Int Sec Inc	155.46	156.08		9.18
Fxd Int Sec Acc	155.46	156.08	.	...
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	809.36	821.60		4.19
Investment Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]		
Fixed Int Inc	128.68	129.20		8.98
Fixed Int Acc	239.31	240.27	.	...
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	84.51	89.10		5.82
Beck Bio-Tech	37.98	41.36	- 3.99	.
Acorn Ethical Est	188.92	188.38		0.43
City Fin Assets	81.17	86.24†	.	1.81
City Fin Intl	87.32	91.69		0.14
Friars Hse Cap	317.41	337.87		2.35
Beckley Wrld Gth	139.93	148.32†		...
J Sld Inc/Gth Inc	57.83	60.73	- 1.40	3.42
Shaw Utilities	64.07	65.59	- 0.01	6.75
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.26	62.88	+ 0.09	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 238				
American Gwth	77.24	82.17†	- 1.02	..
Dragon Growth	68.78	73.54	- 0.38	0.45
Equity High Inc	96.64	103.56†	- 0.43	3.74
-do- Accum	141.87	151.82	- 0.64	3.74
Extra Income Inc	26.48	27.88†	+ 0.01	7.27
Extra Income Acc	29.97	31.56†	+ 0.02	7.27
European Gwth	66.07	70.04	- 1.05	0.55
Evergreen	30.78	32.89†	+ 0.02	.
General Equity	113.22	120.13	- 0.86	2.70
Japan Growth	37.63	40.03	+ 0.25	.
Pedigree Gwth	67.30	72.15	- 0.54	2.17
Pref Sm Cos Inc	40.47	43.82	+ 0.03	1.15
-do- Accum	43.14	46.39	+ 0.02	1.15
Retirement Inc #	29.51	31.43†	- 0.09	5.65
Special Sits	49.87	53.62	- 0.12	2.63
UK & Overseas	61.22	64.96	- 0.70	0.68
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 888 000				
Balanced	73.32	76.37	- 0.36	4.05
Capital	86.48	92.16	- 0.45	2.39
High Income	52.45	54.63	+ 0.03	6.77
Top 50	60.50	63.02	- 0.48	2.55
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	200.14	208.50†	- 1.14	4.41
Long Gilt	43.27	45.05†	- 0.19	6.29
Monthly Inc Plus	51.00	53.13†	- 0.05	8.43
Preference Share	48.16	50.17†	- 0.10	7.77
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	148.91	155.13†	- 0.64	5.50
Managed Fund	77.54	80.78†	- 0.50	2.74
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	55.09	57.39†	- 0.05	1.65
-do- Accum	65.88	68.63†	- 0.06	1.65
UK & General	103.38	107.70†	- 0.82	2.80
-do- Accum	137.05	142.78†	- 1.09	2.80
UK Growth	210.45	219.24†	- 1.67	1.28
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	222.92	232.23†	- 3.64	0.62
Far Eastern Gwth	122.82	127.95†	- 0.84	0.03
Global Bond	72.60	75.63†	+ 0.01	6.55
Japan Growth	92.82	96.70†	+ 0.24	..
North Amer Gth	245.96	256.24†	- 2.41	.
Oriental Growth	79.99	83.33†	- 0.89	0.28
Worldwide Growth	72.74	75.78†	- 0.63	
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.47	91.47†	+ 0.01	5.55

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	243.30	258.90	- 4.30	...
Income & Growth	240.00	255.30	- 1.30	3.95
-do- Accum	387.80	412.60	- 2.00	3.95
Intl Growth	412.40	438.80	- 3.80	.
-do- Accum	457.90	488.58	- 4.10	.
Japan & Gen	135.10	143.50†	+ 0.30	..
-do- Accum	136.50	145.00†	+ 0.40	
Monthly Inc #	208.20	221.50†	- 1.20	4.38
-do- Accum #	212.10	225.60†	- 1.20	4.38
Managed Port Inc	122.10	128.50†	+ 1.40	1.39
-do- Accum	134.20	141.30†	+ 1.50	1.39
Quarterly Income #	58.56	62.72†	- 0.30	5.38
-do- Accum #	68.47	73.34†	- 0.33	5.38
Recovery	323.20	345.70	.	
-do- Accum	381.60	408.10		
UK Growth	70.80	75.32	- 0.43	2
-do- Accum	76.77	81.67	- 0.47	2
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	63.61	67.74		0.14
FP Am Smllr Cos	191.90	204.60		.
FP Asian Growth	281.30	300.00	. .	.
FP Australian	426.70	455.10	. .	.
FP Equity Dist	484.50	516.80		2.38
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]		2.38
FP Euro Gth	313.20	334.00	.	
-do- Accum	343.50	366.40	.	
FP Intl Bond	54.85	58.04	...	4.39
FP Intl Gth Dist	37.97	40.50	.	
-do- Accum	55.78	59.49	.	
FP Pac Basin Acc	203.30	218.80	.	
FP Income #	81.79	85.90		4.82
-do- Accum #	219.60	234.20		4.92
FP Jap Smllr Cos	212.70	226.80		
FP Monthly Dist #	77.70	82.88†		5.46
FP Stlg Deposit	100.00	100.00†	.	5.01
FP Tokyo	63.30	67.52		
FP UK Focus	44.58	47.56†		1.89
FP UK Growth	211.10	225.10		2.19
-do- Accum	429.40	458.00		2.19
Stewardship Dist	469.50	500.80		1.26
-do- Accum	593.40	632.90	.	1.26
Stewdshp Inc Dist #	81.43	86.85	.	4.81
-do- Accum #	114.00	121.50	.	4.81
N Am Stshp Dist	129.50	138.10		0.24
-do- Accum	139.40	148.60		0.24
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	113.30	113.80	.	3.20
Inst Ethical Ac #	113.30	113.80	.	3.20
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	132.60	141.00		
Oppt Cap Gth Acc	138.40	145.10		
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	121.90	128.60		3.16
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	130.50	138.80		3.16
Opp Co Gth Ic Ic #	126.90	134.80		3.83
Opp Cp Gth Ic Ac #	137.40	146.10	.	3.83
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 196/7				
GANDA	316.80	336.10	- 3.10	1.78
Cash	49.58	50.34	+ 0.01	4.46
Growth Portfolio	91.74	97.60	- 0.51	
Income Portfolio	74.34	78.87	- 0.91	2.90
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	240.40	257.10	+ 5.70	0.35
Dividend	102.60	109.70	- 0.90	3.77
Int Gth & Inc	258.00	273.80	- 2.70	2.34
UK & Gen	53.88	57.63†	- 0.41	1.44
Fund of Funds	76.19	81.49†	+ 0.30	.
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smll Cos	189.10	202.30	- 3.60	0.16
European Gth	777.50	826.50	-10.90	0.58
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	54.70	57.98†	- 0.56	4.11
-do- Accum	82.82	88.58	- 0.65	4.11
Far East & Gen	248.00	265.30	- 2.30	
High Yield #	49.99	52.96		7.57
-do- Accum #	56.89	60.28		7.57
Income Inc	205.80	220.20†	- 1.20	3.92
-do- Accum	238.98	255.60	- 1.50	3.92
Intl Growth	382.80	407.20	- 2.30	0.30
Intl Income	96.15	101.80	- 0.50	2.88
Japan Growth	404.00	428.90	+ 2.60	
Oriental Acc	199.60	213.40	- 2.10	0.14

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc #	110.50	116.50	- 1.10	3.50
Sector Value Gwth	112.80	118.90	- 1.20	1.77
Hy 5 Europe	106.80	112.30	- 2.90	1.99
Slater Gwth	202.10	215.60	- 0.30	0.93
New Japan	76.24	80.45	- 0.16	...
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	176.00	187.20	- 5.30	..
Income #	239.48	254.76	- 1.12	4.07
UK Growth	93.35	99.30	- 0.43	1.86
Intl Growth	88.57	94.22	- 0.73	0.59
Ecology	108.82	115.55†	+ 0.05	0.90
European	223.35	237.58	- 1.29	0.27
Far Eastern	300.90	320.10	- 0.10	
UK Special Sits	59.06	62.99†	- 0.31	0.38
Fd of Inv Tsts	55.25	58.84	- 0.32	
High Income #	53.78	57.36†	- 0.27	4.89

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Trustee	46.80	49.50	- 0.10	4.96
-do- Accum	204.30	216.40	- 0.50	4.96
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	106.02	112.78†	- 1.84	0.50
Intl Bond	62.16	65.30	+ 0.11	4.80
Intl Equity Growth	84.69	90.02	- 0.74	0.64
N Amer Growth	141.22	150.05†	- 1.52	0.83
Special Sits Growth	29.77	31.67†	- 0.23	2.07
UK Growth	486.14	517.16†	- 4.16	2.50
-do- Accum	678.14	721.42	- 5.80	2.50
NW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1487.60	1510.50		3.30
Income #	1075.00	1091.70		4.60

Never mind the European single currency. Look at these European single fares.

X vote debonair

Daily scheduled flights from London Luton.
Lowest non-restrictive fares - and you don't have to stay Saturday night unless you want to!

Dusseldorf MONCHENGLADBACH	FROM £41
Munich	FROM £51
Copenhagen	FROM £48
Barcelona	FROM £49
Madrid	FROM £49
Rome	FROM £69

Call 0541 500 300

Debonair Eurostyle Vacations to Rome brochure now available. Call 01293 886066

debonair

Fares shown are one way, exclusive of tax. Subject to availability

ATOL 4384

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	100.50	103.80†	+ 0.10	7.11
Euro Pro Inc	107.80	114.70	- 0.30	2.75
-do- Accum	107.80	114.70	- 0.30	2.75
Gilt Yield	118.10	124.70†	- 0.29	6.49
Global Income	234.10	249.00	- 1.50	3.20
High Yield	165.30	175.90†	- 0.70	5.30
-do- Accum	557.20	592.80†	- 2.00	5.30
Money Market	99.26	99.36†	+ 0.01	5.47
Smlr Cos Div	66.70	70.96	+ 0.13	3.65
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.130	10.270		
Capital Growth Trusts				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	182.40	186.30		3.33
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Inc #	94.56	97.47	- 0.17	
UI & S'm Ptflo	184.10	189.80	- 0.80	2.37
-do- Accum	220.70	227.50	- 0.91	2.37
UF Sel Ptflo	166.60	171.80	- 0.70	2.25
-do- Accum	202.80	209.10	- 0.90	2.25
UF 100 Cos	125.10	135.19†	- 0.60	2.50
-do- Accum	128.30	138.30†	- 0.50	2.50
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				

هكذا من الاعلى

APRIL 4 1997

Shares slide in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
489	407½	Allied Domecq	445½	-3½	8.6	13.5
626	547½	Bulmer (HP)	580	-5	2.9	17.6
75½	59½	Burn Stewart	60½	+½	7.2	14.6
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	1000		1.5	27.2
503½	429½	Grand Met	475½	-5½	4.2	15.4
518½	434	Guinness†	489	-½	4.0	14.2
380	334	Highland Dist	347½	+3½	3.0	16.7
338	257	Matthew Clark	324	+2	9.3	15.5
109½	90½	Merydew W	90½		6.4	12.2
1978½	1462½	SA Breweries	1865¾	+3½	1.8	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4008¾	3571¼	ABN-AMRO	3937½	-34¼	3.0	16.0
811	710	Abbey Nat†	728	-7	4.5	12.9
455½	388½	Allied Irish	408	-1	4.4	
409¼	363¾	Aus New Z	378¾	+2¼	5.0	...
7878½	5753½	Bank America	6100	-184½		...
379½	291½	Bank Scotland	317	+1	2.8	11.6
1226	878½	Barclays†	1012½	+3½	3.9	10.2
635	517½	Bk of Ireland	587½	-2½	3.5	13.3
7180¼	6006¼	Citicorp	6703¾	-116¼		..
1731¼	1268¼	Commerzbk	1688¾	-16¾	2.6	..
862½	608¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	662½		0.6	
3490¾	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	3246¾	-25	2.0	
912½	759¾	Espirito Santo	884¾	+3¼	3.8	12.8
872¼	680¼	Fuji Bank Y	703¾	-6¼	0.5	
1622	1272½	HSBC†	1424¾	-13	3.6	12.3
1563½	1241	HSBC HK†	1372½	-8½	3.7	11.9
605	483½	Irish Perm†	567	-5	2.8	
534	424	Lloyds TSB†	490½	-4	3.4	15.8
819½	669½	Nat Aust Bk	741½	+½	5.5	10.1
844½	668	Nat West†	675	-4½	5.4	10.1
632½	508	Ryl Bk Scot	518½	-3	4.5	11.5
908½	681	Stand Chart†	822	-5½	2.2	14.7
£164¾	£164¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
374¾	327	Westpac	327	-¼	4.1	10.7

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	793½	Bass	815	+3	3.8	16.1
58½	54½	Bk for the Brit	55	-½	4.0	15.0
205	170½	Burtonwood Brw	180	+½	3.9	16.2
155½	137½	City Centre Rest	150	..	1.9	28.3
744½	612½	Compass Grp	650	+10	1.7	25.7
290½	250	Eldridge P 'A'	279½		2.4	17.1
495	435	Fuller Sm 'A'	482½	..	2.4	16.1
588	508½	Greenalls Grp	532½	-1½	3.6	16.8
760	643	Greene King	700	-2½	2.9	17.2
237½	164½	Grosvenor Inns†	198½		3.9	18.7
285	218½	Groupe Chez Ger	243½	-1	1.5	23.8
298½	273½	Hardy Hanson	280½	+½	4.7	12.7
2800	2700	Hall J	2725		2.6	14.7
78	63½	Inn Business†	70½		2.8	
367	343	Mansfield	350	-1½	2.2	16.1
315½	252	Marston Thmp	280		3.3	10.5
615	563	Marland	600	-4	2.8	15.8

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
465½	387½	Electrocomponents	393½	-1	2.2	23.8
229½	164½	Eurodis Elect	165	-½	3.8	23.5
93½	78½	European Mir	87½	-1½	7.6	8.9
263	220	Evans Halshaw†	224	-5	9.2	..
53½	42½	FIle Indmar	44½	-3	9.3	6.7
387½	322½	Finelist Grp▼	350	-½	2.1	17.8
34½	27½	Gardiner†	29½		4.0	11.3
79½	57½	Glenchewton	62½	-1	2.7	12.1
110	82½	Gowrings†	96		3.9	
100	82	Hanlet	95½	..	8.2	8.6
267½	239½	Harris (Philip)	247½	..	4.4	15.7
320½	284½	Headlam	309½	-5	3.4	...
155	148	Holders Tech	154		5.4	
240½	209	ISA Intl	233½		1.5	
285	240½	Inchcape	252½	-1	5.3	14.3
52½	48½	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
246½	214½	Kwik-Fit	229½	+1	3.1	16.2
367	318½	Lex Service†	329½	+1½	6.1	10.9
122	102	Lookers†	103		9.7	6.9
14½	11	Malaya Grp†	12½		6.6	
8	5¼	Middlesex	7¼		1.3	11.1
41½	31½	Midlands	33½		0.9	
472	229	Nomura	238	-6	3.9	7.1
166½	131½	Northamber	144	-½	1.2	8.6
362¾	305¼	Partco▼	308½	-14½	3.2	..
404½	342½	Pendragon†	371		3.3	17.1
223½	190½	Perry Gp	205		5.6	
751	456	Premier Farnell	462½	-1½	3.1	18.0
152½	137½	Quicks Group	138½	-2	6.5	
348	307½	REA	315		1.5	37.8
2½	2¼	Rence	2¼		...	
28	18½	Ronson	20½		9.1	7.1
4	2½	Ross Gp	3			
109½	76½	Ryland†	90½		5.6	16.2
38	25½	SEP Inds†	25½	-¼	8.2	7.2
92½	55	Sabre	56½		2.1	19.0
415½	377½	Time Products	386		3.6	15.8
270	228	UNIECO	240		2.5	17.2
352½	292½	Vardy (Reg)†	332½	..	2.6	14.6
650	498½	WF Elect†	615		2.7	22.3
41	31½	Wilshaw	35¼	-¼	3.0	10.4
172½	147½	Wyko†	150		2.2	17.5
154½	119½	Young (H)	135½		3.9	11.7

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
420	327½	Antofagasta	355	-5	1.8	
328	283½	Ascot Hldgs	283½		2.3	
876	730	Broken Hill	805	-4	3.0	18.5
289	237½	BTR†	256½	-1	4.7	14.1
568	462	BICC†	516	+3½	6.3	10.9
195½	128	Bibby (J)	188	-1	5.0	10.9
60½	53¾	Burtley Inv	56½	+¼	8.4	9.3
856½	715	Charter†	779		4.7	11.0
264	222½	Cookson†	222½	-6	4.8	16.2
229½	200½	Cosalt†	203½		6.0	9.9
312½	255½	DCC	295		2.9	11.7
133	115½	Grampian Hldg	121		6.5	12.5
140½	124½	Harrison Crsfld	128		9.2	11.4
509½	423½	Hutch Whamp	425½	-10½	2.3	17.7
438½	375	Imperial Tobacco	408	-3	6.1	8.2
397¾	355¼	Jardine Math	362½	+5¼	4.2	
150½	123	Lonrho†	137½	-½	4.3	17.5

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
46½	30	Simon Eng	45½	...		
227½	125	Six Hundred	126		4.7	2.5
832½	742½	Smiths Ind	788½	+13	2.6	20.2
720½	638½	Spirax-Sarco	653½	+5	2.8	17.2
303½	273½	Sterling Ind	276		4.0	13.9
594½	515	TI†	547½	+2½	3.3	18.2
113½	104½	Tinsley (E)	105½		7.0	10.9
120½	102½	TransTec	118		2.5	
205½	179½	Triplex Lloyd	179½	-½	4.9	10.1
167½	150½	Unicorn Ind	159½		4.9	
70	48½	Utd Inds	51	-½	5.1	17.2
273½	228½	Vickers†	232½	+1	3.9	13.9
10¼	8½	Villers Grp	9			
712½	617½	Wiles	618½		2.5	11.1

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
94	79½	Edin Dragon	79½	-¼		
30	24	Edinburgh Inca	28¼			
372½	343¼	Edinburgh	358	-½	3.6	31.1
119	107½	EFM Japan	107	+½	..	
502	420½	Electra Inv	460½	-½	2.3	43.1
156½	144½	Eng & Scot	149½	+¼	2.5	38.9
405½	378½	European Assets†	379½	-2	1.4	
108¼	92¼	Fidelity Asian Val	92¼	-¼		
253½	216½	Fidelity Euro Val	240½		0.2	
47½	36½	Fidelity Jap Val	37½	-¼	0.3	
136½	126	Fidelity Spec Val	129		0.5	
226½	205½	Finsbury 'A'	210	-10	2.3	47.3

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
195½	192½	Murray S/C DP	194½			
220½	163½	Murray S/C Cap	203½			
73½	65½	Murray S/C Inc†	67½	...	21.4	5.5
3750	3150	Murray S/C Unit	3700		3.9	..
465½	419	Murray Small	439½	-1½	1.4	64.9
402½	387	Murray Vent	391½		4.8	21.7
5½	5½	Newmarket	5½			
407½	353½	O'seas Inv Tst	385	-3	1.2	79.3
210½	156½	O'seas Wts	195	-2½		
126	102½	Pacific Assets	103¼	-¼	0.5	...
109½	98	Perp Inc Gth	103½		2.1	
54½	44¼	Perpetual Jap	45	-½		
366½	316½	Perpt UK Sm Co†	324	-1½	3.7	39.0
£139½	£128¼	Personal Assets	£138	...	2.0	47.6
128½	109½	Pilot Inv†	122½		2.1	49.9

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
223	219½	GGT Group▼	220	-3	3.4	15.3
232½	187½	GWR Gp	227½	-3	1.4	39.4
387½	300½	Gartmore Group†	379½	...	2.0	18.7
34½	29½	Goodhead†	31		1.0	18.0
391½	256	Grampian	271½	-5	2.6	21.7
372½	277½	HTV Group†	289	+8½	1.8	
287½	232½	Haynes Publ	260		5.2	11.9
22½	17½	Highbury Hse	18			
230	215	Hodder H'line	220		3.8	..
285	243	Home Counties	260		2.6	29.6
329½	295	IBC	327		3.2	12.0
26½	21½	Incepta	22¼	-¼		15.1
332½	297½	Independent†	317½		2.4	
135	95	Infoscope	132½	+12½	3.8	10.5
206½	184½	Johnston Press	192½	+5	1.6	22.1

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
88½	73½	INVESCO Korea	73½			
43½	36	INVESCO Tokyo	37			
63½	60½	J Fry 2nd U	62	+1	11.1	11.1
96½	82½	J Fry Euro Ut	89½		6.2	14.4
162¼	123	JF Fledg Jap	124½	-½		
108½	92½	Jupiter Ex Inc	101		9.7	10.0
14½	3½	Jupiter Ex IncWt	11			
86	76½	Jupiter Grd Capt	83		11.7	10.6
38½	31	Jupiter Grd Ptd	35½			
135½	120½	Jupiter Intl Grt	124½		3.9	..
338½	293	Klnwt Chrtt	324	+2	2.3	48.3
116½	98½	Klnwt E Mkt	107½	-1	...	..
170½	153½	Klnwt End	155	..		
99	74	Klnwt H Inc	91½	+1	13.5	9.7
306½	261	Klnwt O'seas	281	-2½	1.8	53.9
188½	171	Klnwt Smlr	183½		2.5	
387	264½	Korea—Euro	289½	+25	0.4	
134¼	98¼	Latin American	123½			
987	902½	Law Debenture†	906	-2½	3.4	27.5
115	103½	Life Offices Tst	108			
133	122½	Lloyds Sm Cap	129½			
25¼	20¼	Lloyds Sm Dist	20¼		24.8	
158½	145	Lloyds Sm Pfgt	151½		3.2	39.0
168½	159½	Lon St Lawrence	164½		4.7	36.4
335½	295	Lowland	307	-½	4.5	23.8

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
338½	272	Jurys Hotel	328¾	+5	2.6	17.6
28	23½	Kunick	25½		3.4	16.7
246	217½	Ladbroke†	224	-1	3.5	24.7
419	298½	London Clubs	408½	-3½	2.4	27.0
221	210½	Macdonald Hls	215½	-2	2.3	23.4
733½	628	Man Utd	630½	-4½	1.0	42.6
91	74	Mandarin Orntl	78½	+¼	4.9	
412½	347½	Millennium & Copt	412½		1.4	17.4
235½	191½	Northern	230		2.9	20.3
189½	117½	Prism Leisure	163½	-2	4.7	8.8
38	29½	Queensborough	32½	-½	...	
18½	12¾	Queens Moat	13¾	+¼	...	
452½	409	Rank Grp†	436½	+9	4.9	34.7
46½	40½	Ryan Hotels IE	44½		4.8	9.0
1475	1405	Savoy Hotel A†	1415	-5	1.5	
229½	184½	Sinclair (Wm)†	216		4.7	12.3
153½	47	Southampton	72½	-½	1.7	...
110½	96½	Stakis†	106	-½	2.5	17.3
330	249½	Stanley Leisure	290	-3½	1.5	29.8
11	6½	Tandem	6½			
348	346	Tanjong†	346		1.4	22.8
210	177	Thistle Hotels†	184		2.5	18.0
142	105	Tottenham Hot	105½	-1	0.9	18.1
115½	93½	Toy Options	106	+½	4.1	8.6
280½	242½	VCI	243½	-3	4.0	

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
119½	107½	Mercury Euro Pr	110½	-½	2.1	42.6
40	30	Mercury Em Wt	31½	-1		
99½	83½	Mercury World	95	-½	1.5	78.7
14	6½	Mercury Wld Wts	9½	-¼		
668½	603	Monks Inv Tst	629		1.9	48.2
180½	158½	Morg Gren Inc	160½	-1	4.7	25.5
74	59½	Morg Wts	62			
91	69	Morg Latin Amer	82½	+¼	0.4	
36½	31½	Morg Wts	30½			
130½	119½	Murray Ent	127½	-½	2.9	35.8
21½	14½	Murray Ent Wts	16½			
85½	71	Murray Emg Eco	80	-½	0.6	
21½	14½	Murray Em Ec Wt	16½			
74	65½	Murray Euro	72½		0.8	
400½	364	Murray Income†	368½	-3	4.7	27.3
463	401½	Murray Intl	427½	-3½	3.9	29.3

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
170½	120½	CIA Gp	156		1.8	18.1
590	516½	Capital Radio	554	-4½	2.8	18.0
577½	489	Carlton Comms†	512	-7½	2.7	16.2
812½	512½	Chrysalis†	717½		0.5	
82½	69	City of Lon	73½		8.9	9.8
132½	97½	Cordiant	132	+2½	1.0	
1750	1431½	Daily Mail	1746½		1.4	28.7
1640½	1331½	Daily Mail 'A'	1628½		1.5	28.7
430	245	Dorling Kind	271	-1½	2.1	22.7
831½	734	EMAP†	773½	-1	1.9	26.7
1410	1085½	EMI†	1162½	+2½	3.0	28.5
1062½	913½	Elsevier	956	-10½	2.6	
1450	1400	Euromoney Pbl	1415		4.1	19.8
49	37	Flicks	41½		1.2	11.5
803½	598	Flextech	598	-5		

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
222½	197½	Jardine Strat	213½	+2	4.1	
133½	112½	Johnson Fry	128½		3.9	5.6
485	465	Leopold J	485		5.0	28.7
503½	429½	Liberty Intl†	461½	-2	4.3	28.6
437½	299½	Lon Forfaiting†	370	-2½	3.8	13.7
229½	209½	London Pacific	216	-½	8.2	...
111½	94½	Lon Scot Bk	98	-1	3.6	17.1
200½	172½	Man ED & F	185½		6.9	10.0
1467½	1097½	M & G	1327½	-2½	3.4	22.4
1428½	1172½	MAM	1244	+3½	3.9	20.8
178½	113½	Paragon	151½	-2	2.0	7.3
2785	2200	Perpetual	2515	-5	2.8	18.6
612½	500	Provident†	560½	+4	3.7	18.1
337	303	Rathbone Bs	320		4.1	14.3
60½	47½	Rea Brothers	47½	..	2.7	18.8

ROCHE BOBOIS

EUROPEAN INTERIORS
NEW COLLECTION

421/425 Finchley Road, Hampstead
London NW3 6HJ. Phone: 0171 - 431 1411.
Fax: 0171 431 1611
Free Parking
Open 10am- 7pm Mon-Sat

Paris • New York • Brussels • Geneva • Athens • Barcelona
Milan • Rotterdam • Mexico City • Buenos Aires • Tokyo

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gss red yld
100⁹⁄₃₂	100⁵⁄₁₆	Treas 7% 1997	100⁵⁄₁₆	.	6.98	6.27
101½	100²³⁄₃₂	Treas 8¾% 1997	100²³⁄₃₂	..	8.67	6.27
106⁷⁄₃₂	104⁵⁄₃₂	Exch 15% 1997	104¾		14.32	6.44
102¾	102¼	Exch 9¾% 1998	102¼		9.52	6.57
101⁵⁄₁₆	100½	Treas 7¼% 1998	100⅝	+ ⅛	7.21	6.85
110¼	107⁵⁄₁₆	Treas 14% 1998-01	107⁵⁄₁₆	- ⅛	12.99	8.77
114⅝	111¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas 15½% 1998	112	- ⅛	13.84	6.89
109⅜	107⅞	Exch 12% 1998	107¹¹⁄₁₆	- ⅛	11.14	6.84
105⅝	104⁵⁄₁₆	Treas 9½% 1999	104½	- ⅛	9.12	6.99
111⅝	109⅝	Exch 12¼% 1999	109⁹⁄₁₆		11.19	7.08
108⅝	106¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas 10½% 1999	106⅞	- ⅛	9.84	7.03
99⅝	97⁹⁄₁₆	Treas 6% 1999	97⁹⁄₁₆	- ⅛	6.14	7.06
118⁹⁄₁₆	107⅛	Conv 10¼% 1999	107⅛	- ⅛	9.56	7.20
105½	104⅛	Conv 9% 2000	104³⁄₁₆	- ⅛	8.62	7.26
104¹¹⁄₁₆	102½	Treas 8% 2000	102⅝	- ⅛	7.83	7.31
119⁵⁄₁₆	116⅝	Treas 13% 2000	116⅝	- ⅛	11.18	7.33
112⁵⁄₁₆	108⅝	Treas 10% 2001	108⁹⁄₁₆	- ⅛	9.21	7.41
101⅛	98⅝	Treas 7% 2001	98⅝	- ⅛	7.11	7.40

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gss red yld
122⅛	109½	Treas 9¾% 2002	109⁹⁄₁₆	- ⅛	8.89	7.53
105¹⁵⁄₁₆	102⅝	Treas 8% 2003	102⅝	- ⅛	7.82	7.52
116⅝	111½	Treas 10% 2003	112	- ⅛	8.93	7.59
116¹⁵⁄₁₆	113⁹⁄₁₆	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113¹⁵⁄₁₆	- ⅛	10.11	7.42
85⅝	82⅝	Fund 3½% 1999-04	83⅝	- ⅛	4.21	6.38
114⅝	110⅝	Conv 9½% 2004	110⅝	- ⅛	8.59	7.62
98⅝	94⅝	Treas 6¾% 2004	95⅛	- ⅛	7.09	7.58
108⅝	104⅝	Treas 8½% 2005	105⅝	- ⅛	8.09	7.66
122⅝	110⅝	Conv 9½% 2005	110⅝	- ⅛	8.58	7.68
129⅝	124⅝	Treas 12½% 2003-05	125⅝	- ⅛	9.98	7.61
103⅛	98⅝	Treas 7½% 2006	98⅝	- ⅛	7.61	7.70
107⅛	99⅝	Treas 7¾% 2006	100	- ⅛	7.75	7.74
104⅛	100⅝	Treas 8% 2002-06	100⅝†	- ⅛	7.94	7.68
123⅝	115⅝	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	119⅝ †	- ⅛	9.86	7.80
110⅝	105⅛	Treas 8½% 2007	105⅝	- ⅛	8.07	7.74
114⅝	108⅝	Treas 9% 2008	109⅝ †	- ⅛	8.25	7.78
105⅝	101⅛	Treas 8% 2009	101⅝	- ⅛	7.89	7.81

LONGS (over 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gss red yld
91½	86¼	Treas 6¼% 2010	86⅝	- ⅛	7.21	7.84
115⅝	109½	Conv 9% 2011	109⅝	- ⅛	8.20	7.83
116⅝	109⅝	Treas 9% 2012	110⅝	- ⅛	8.17	7.84
85⅝	80⅝	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81⅝	- ⅛	6.78	7.61
107⅝	100⅝	Treas 8% 2013	101⅝ †	- ⅛	7.90	7.86
104⅝	98⅝	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	98⅝	- ⅛	7.83	7.87
107⅝	101⅛	Treas 8% 2015	101⅝	- ⅛	7.87	7.82
115⅝	108⅝	Treas 8¾% 2017	108⅝	- ⅛	8.05	7.87
108⅝	101⅛	Tr 8% 2021	101⅝	- ⅛	7.86	7.82

UNDATED

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gss red yld
47⅝	43⅝	War Ln 3½%	44⅝	- ⅛	7.89	
33⅝	30⅝	Treas 2½%	30⅝	- ⅛	8.09	..
54⅝	49⅝	Consols 4%	49⅝	+ ⅛	8.04	...

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
114⅝	113⅝	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113⅝	..	..	2.31
187⅝	184⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2001	185⅝	- ⅛	2.83	3.44
184⅝	180⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2003	181	- ⅛	3.07	3.52
120⅝	117⅝	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	117⅝	- ⅛	3.12	3.52
195⅝	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	190⅝	- ⅛	3.25	3.55
178⅝	170⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2009	171⅝	- ⅛	3.34	3.58
183⅝	176⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2011	177⅝	- ⅛	3.39	3.61
150⅝	145⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2013	145⅝	- ⅛	3.40	3.62
161⅝	153⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2016	155⅝	- ⅛	3.47	3.65
154⅝	147⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2020	148⅝	- ⅛	3.53	3.68
128⅝	122⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2024	123⅝	- ⅛	3.55	3.68
126⅝	119⅝	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	120⅝†	- ⅛	3.55	3.68

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	84½	Abacus Recruit	100½	.	0.6	19.4
210½	170	Cafe Inns	190	.	1.6	14.6
200½	153½	Country Gdns	195½	-4	1.0	..
2590	2150	Dawson Hldgs	2287½	+37½	2.2	17.6
51½	42½	Freepages	43	-1½		
93½	88½	Megalomedia	92½		.	51.9
65	34½	Memory Corp	34½	-2	...	..
239½	210	Old English Pub	216	..	0.8	67.8
590	295	Prism Rail	350		.	.
1265	945	Ramco Egy	1012½	.	0.1	...
782	619½	Southern News	779½	..	2.9	25.3
70½	65½	Southern Vectis	70½	+1	3.4	15.2
496	410	Surrey Fr Inst	445	-5	0.7	30.8
60½	33½	Tocalino	35	+½	.	..

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

■ CHOICE 1

Mary Black sings *From the Heart* during her only London concert

VENUE: Sunday at the *Barbican Centre*

■ CHOICE 2

Ricochet Dance Company performs a new work by Javier de Frutos

VENUE: Tomorrow at the *Queen Elizabeth Hall*

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ CHOICE 3

James MacMillan's Clarinet Concerto is given its world premiere

VENUE: Tonight at the *Usher Hall, Edinburgh*

■ POP 1

In praise of Luscious Jackson: four American girls who like their music scratchy, restless, honest — and loud

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

FROM THE HEART: Two consecutive weekends of Irish music begin tonight with a concert by Donal Lunny's Wheels of the World Band, featuring Liam O'Maonlai (Hothouse Flowers) and Máire Brennan (Clannad). Tomorrow, Paul Brady is joined on stage by Altan, and on Sunday Mary Black gives her only London show this year.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). All performances at 7 30pm

LANGUAGE ROULETTE: Daragh Carville's fast-talking play set in a Belfast pub on a pound-a-pint night where jollity turns to dangerous truth-telling. Tim Loane directs the Tinderbox Theatre production, slightly recast from last year's successful premiere.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until April 26

RICOCHET DANCE COMPANY: A new two-part programme includes Rosemary Lee's debut work for the company, *Treading the Night Plain*. Javier de Frutos's second piece for Ricochet — *All visitors bring happiness, some by coming, some by going* — is set to Stravinsky's *Les Noces*.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 7 45pm. Ⓢ

ENDYMION ENSEMBLE: Krysia Osostowicz, violin, Jane Salmon, cello, and Michael Dussek, piano, perform Brahms's Cello Sonata in F and Piano Trio in C minor, and Bach's Partita for solo violin.
Blackheath Concert Halls, 23 Lee Road, SE3 (0181-463 0100). Sunday, 11 30am.

ELSEWHERE

BELFAST: Dmitry Sitkovetsky conducts the **Ulster Orchestra** in Mendelssohn's overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Shchedrin's *Russian Photographs* and Bizet's Symphony in C. Jean-Louis Steuerman joins the orchestra for Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1.
Ulster Hall, Bedford Street (01232 233240). Tonight, 7 45pm.

BLACKPOOL: The **Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company** performs *Romance ... with footnotes* and a new work, *Palimpsest*, performed to a composition by Graham Fitkin.
Grand, 33 Church Street (01253 28372). Tomorrow, 8pm. Ⓢ

EDINBURGH: The **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** gives the world premiere of James MacMillan's Clarinet Concerto, *Ninian* (soloist John Cushing). *The programme includes both* Schubert's and Nielsen's Symphony No 5. Paul Daniel conducts. Repeated tomorrow, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.
Usher Hall, Lothian Road (0131-228 1155). *Tonight, 7.30pm* Ⓢ

HUDDERSFIELD: The **Huddersfield Poetry Festival** celebrates its tenth anniversary over the next three *weekends (today and tomorrow, April 11 and 12, April 18 and 19)* with an innovative programme of performance, music, theatre and mime.
Media Centre, Northumberland Street *(01484 452070). Today-April 19*

LONDON GALLERIES

Art First: David Prentice; Margaret *Hunter (0171-734 0386)* . . **Catto**: Lélia Pissarro (0171-435 6660) . . **Goethe-Institut**: Lovis Corinth and His Times (0171-411 3400) . . . **National**: Discovering the Italian Baroque: The *Denis Mahon Collection (0171-747 2885)* . . **National Portrait**: Variations on a Theme: 150 Years of Photographs of British Composers; August Sander (0171-306 0055) . . **Pentagram**: Tony Evans *(0171-229 3477)* . . . **Royal Academy**: Braque: The Late Works (0171-439 7438) . . **Royal Over-Seas League**: Jackie Philip (0171-408 0214)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- ■ **House full, returns only**
- ◪ **Some seats available**
- ☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **AMERICAN BUFFALO**: Douglas Henshall, Neil Stuke and Nicholas Woodeson play the three small-time crooks in David Mamet's gripping drama. Lindsay Posner directs.
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Final performances *tonight and tomorrow, 7 30pm; mat Sat, 2 30pm.*

☐ **THE HOMECOMING**: Pinter's unnerving comedy, set in a north London house where David Bradley's *bullying Max leads the struggle to* possess his eldest son's wife (Lindsay Duncan). Roger Michell directs.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7 30pm, mat Sat, 2.15pm. *In rep*

☐ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR**: Micheal MacLiammóir's celebrated tribute to Wilde, movingly *revived by Simon Callow, conveying the* wit, the gravity, the distress.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

■ **IVANOV**: Ralph Fiennes heads a splendid cast in Jonathan Kent's excellent production of Chekhov's first produced play.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 *(0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mats Sat, 3pm. Until April 12.*

☐ **LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN**: Braham Murray's production of Wilde *down from Manchester for a ten-week* season. Gabrielle Drake plays the woman with a past, Rebecca Johnson the virtuous wife without a mother.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 *(0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats* Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

◪ **POPCORN**: Ben Elton's blistering comedy about movie violence. A *Tarantinoesque* director gets his come-uppance when two serial killers (great playing by Patrick O'Kane and Dena Davis) blame him for *their misdeeds.*
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 4pm

☐ **ROMANCE, ROMANCE**: Musical double-bill by Barry Harman and Keith Hermann, derived from a Schnitzler hit of love in old Vienna coupled with a modern version set on Long Island. Directed by Steven Dexter.
Gielgud, *Shaftesbury Avenue, W1* (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

☐ **THEN AGAIN . . .** : A new Lyric Revue, drawing on the sharper items from years gone by, plus fresh material. Neil Bartlett directs Desmond Barrit, Dawn French, Sheila Hancock and Niall Mullarkey, with John Gould at the piano.
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 *(0181-741 2311).* Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm. Until April 19.

☐ **WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF HRT**: Marie Jones and Eileen Pollock in love with Daniel O'Donnell. Hit Irish comedy but their daydreams are a bit *obvious, somehow.*
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . ■ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) . . ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737) ☐ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) . . ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ☐ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443)

Ticket information supplied by Society *of London Theatre*

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **FEVER PITCH** (15): Football-crazed teacher falls in love. Appealing version of Nick Hornby's book, with Colin Firth, Ruth Gemmell. Director, David Evans.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096).

◆ **HARD MEN** (18): Tension among London hitmen. Meretricious British thriller in the Tarantino mould.
ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

A SELF-MADE HERO (15): Jacques Audiard's captivating film about a bogus Resistance hero in the Second World War, with Mathieu Kassovitz.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Rio** *(0171-254 6677)*

TOKYO FIST (18): Cyberpunk love triangle from Japanese director Shinya Tsukamoto. Not for the squeamish.
ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647)

CURRENT

◆ **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (15): Map-making Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Epic, intelligent, though not quite worth all the praise. Director, Anthony Minghella.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) *UCI Whiteleys (0990-888 990)* **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** (0171-437 4343) **Waterman's** (0181-568 1176)

◆ ***JERRY MAGUIRE*** *(15)*: *A sports PR* agent gets a conscience. Enjoyable, if overlong comedy, with Tom Cruise.
Empire (0990 888990) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) ***UCI Whiteleys*** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **SPACE JAM** (U): Sports star Michael Jordan collides with characters from Looney Tunes cartoons.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-*352 5096) Trocadero* Ⓢ *(0171-434* 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO + JULIET** (12): Effervescent contemporary treatment, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 *4220)* **Plaza** Ⓢ *(0990 888990)* **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

"In New York, you're allowed to make as much noise as you like," say Luscious Jackson. So that's all right, then

Meet grown-up spice

They came from New York to shatter every illusion about the woman-pop thing. They are Luscious Jackson

CAITLIN MORAN

Human beings are shaped by the land they live on. For Eskimos, language seems to be little more than an oral filing system for different types of snow. Australia's terrain shaped the Australian accent — the harsh open spaces and small population caused conversation to be brisk in tone, but slow in tempo. And the copious number of flies meant that one had *to talk through gritted teeth.*

So it comes as no surprise that the great cities of the world should influence the music that is made within their ring-roads. Luscious Jackson are the sound of New York in all its cross-cultural, life-affirming glory. Gabby Glaser, the band's singer and guitarist, has it taped: "Proper coffee; stores that are open at four in the morning selling hot bagels; bumping into people you haven't seen for a while and ending up at a house party at seven in the morning with them. Second-hand stores selling cute denim jackets for $9 that smell like someone's died in them. People on roller skates reading *The Wall Street Journal*. Walking through Greenwich Village and hearing jazz from one open window, breakbeat from another, and sad Hispanic guitar stuff from a third. And like I said before, *proper* coffee." We're in a swish London hotel, and Glaser is grimacing over *our* coffee.

No wonder the murder rate's so high in New York, I say. The police must be perpetually busy, turning up at people's apartments and telling them to keep the noise down. "No, no. We have laws about that," Glaser says. "You're allowed to make as much noise as you like. It's like the Freedom of Noise Amendment, or something."

"We had great cause to be thankful for that law," says drummer Kate Schellenbach. "We demo-ed the new album in my flat, and we like our music *loud*."

The final result of all those late-night sessions is the forthcoming album *Fever In Fever Out*, the sequel to 1994's *Natural Ingredients*. *Fever In Fever Out* avoids the overproduced sterility that plagues most second albums, choosing instead to breeze effortlessly through its 14 tracks, keeping *things scratchy*, restless and honest.

Lead singer Jill Cunniff's febrile love life seems the starting point for many of the songs. She appears to have hung out with more rats than Dick Whittington. Glaser, on the other hand, appears to have found perfect love: "Laughing and dancing 'til the sun comes out/Then later, when we're lying together/Even our stomachs are speaking to each other."

Nearly every tune is giddy with pristine harmonies and that distinctive tang of genius. It's hard to believe that, when Luscious Jackson first emerged, many critics expressed thinly veiled surprise that *girls* could do hip-hop and pop. "Yeah; there seems to be general surprise that our wombs don't get in the way of *our guitars*," *Glaser says.* "Although I've noticed that a lot of people stopped acting quite so strange about Kate being a drummer when she made it clear that she was a lesbian. It was like, 'Ah-ha! That explains that whole woman-drumming thing — she's a lesbian.' Like that was *more important than the fact* that she used to drum for the Beastie Boys."

"People like that amuse me now," Schellenbach says. "I can spend an hour after they've gone repeating all the *dumb things they've said* and howling with laughter. It's the same when we get invited to parties. We're quite a cool band, but no one knows what we look like. So you might meet someone over the buffet who'll be totally rude and blank you. An hour later, when you're introduced to them, they'll be so revoltingly friendly. Not that we're cynical."

All of Luscious Jackson cackle cynically.

● *The single* Naked Eye *is released by Grand Royal records on Monday.* Fever In Fever Out *follows on April 13*

Gypsy passions

WILD and untamed, Taraf de *Haidouks* come from a tiny gypsy village in Romania. For years they played at local festivals but since the downfall of communism they have been storming the concert platforms of Western Europe. *Hugely popular in* France and Belgium, the 12-strong troupe were making their first visit to London and their stomping performance full of dark passion sent a capacity audience home in joyous mood.

WORLD MUSIC

Taraf de Haidouks
Barbican

Taraf range in age from 77 to 19. At the start the full ensemble is shambolic, and barely in tune. This is apparently par for the course: they are accustomed to playing all night and the first few numbers are *little more than* a warm-up. Things improve dramatically when they break down into smaller combinations, allowing each of five violinists the spotlight. None of them can read or write but their musical virtuosity is phenomenal: the melodies are complex and the improvised *solos are taken at breakneck* speed as each attempts to surpass the others.

This is music from deep within the gypsy soul. The heartbeat comes from the cimbalom, an East European dulcimer that is hammered with gusto, providing a shifting but insistent rhythm. The *line-up* is completed by a plucked double bass and a pair of accordions. The vocals are high and intense, ranging from the plaintive *Cintec de Superare Tiganesc* (Sad Gypsy Song) to *Balada Conducatorolui* (Ballad of the Dictator), sung in an ancient guttural delivery to a traditional tune with words mocking the fallen tyrant Ceausescu.

The faster songs are full of mischief, celebrating the traditional gypsy life. By the time the full group are reunited for the finale, rivalries are forgotten and they are on fire as one. Taraf de Haidouks are an earthy, living treasure — eccentric, humorous and exhausting. It is hard to think of anything else quite like them.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

ART GALLERIES

PARKIN GALLERY 19 Mar-18 Apr Theodore Roussel "A triumphant Exhibition" Times. 11 Motcomb St SW1 0171 235 8144

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Ton't 6 00 *ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE* Tomor 7 30 MADAM BUTTERFLY

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Office & Standby info *Tickets available on the day* The Royal Opera Tomor 7 00, Tue 7.30 SALOME The Royal Ballet Ton't, Thur (Last Night) 7 30 LA BAYADÈRE Mon (First Night), Wed 7 30 ANASTASIA

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS at the PEACOCK THEATRE (0171) 314 8800 Daniel Ezralow's MANDALA A startling vision of one man's journey Until 19 April Tues-Thurs & Sat at 8pm, Fri at 6pm & 9.15pm, Sun 13 at 6pm

THEATRES

ADELPHI ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S SUNSET BOULEVARD Starring PETULA CLARK 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 344 0055 (bkg fee) GRP BOOKING 413 3302 (bkg fee) No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers Recorded information 0171 379 8884 Mon-Sat 7 45 Mats Thur & Sat 3 00 MUST END TOMOR

2 - 19 APRIL ALAN HOWARD Kings written by CHRISTOPHER LOGUE "Thrilling" F.T. TRICYCLE THEATRE 0171 328 1000

THEATRES

Adelphi Legendary Entertainer JERRY LEWIS *DAMN YANKEES* A helluva musical with heart Red. price prevs from 29 May Opens 4 June. 0171 413 1777 (24hrs *low bkg fee*) Grps 0800 614803. 0171 930 3000 (no fee)

ALBERY THEATRE BO & cc 0171 369 1730 cc 344 4444, 312 5068 (No fees) Grps 413 3321, 312 5069, 436 5588 Previews from 14 April, Opens 17 April GARY WILMOT ANN CRUMB in THE GOODBYE GIRL A New Musical Book by Neil Simon, Music by Marvin Hamlisch, Lyrics by Don Black Evgs Mon-Fri 8pm. Wed Mat 3pm, Sats 5 & 8.30pm

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6007/ 420 0000 (24 hrs/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 416 6075 MICHAEL GAMBON ALEC McCOWEN TOM & CLEM a new play by STEPHEN CHURCHETT *Directed by* RICHARD WILSON Red. Price Prevs from 9 Apr Opens 14 April at 7 00pm Eves 7.30, Wed & Sat mats 3

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321 *Andrew Lloyd Webber's* STARLIGHT EXPRESS THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH *White knuckle runs 19 45 daily* Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50

APOLLO 24hr cc 0171 494 5070 cc 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454 BEN ELTON'S POPCORN Mon-Sat 8.00pm Mats Wed 3 00pm Sat 4 00pm

CAMBRIDGE 494 5080/416 6060 344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee) *Groups 494 5454* 416 6075/413 3321/436 5588 GREASE "A Monster Hit" D Mirror *Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Wed & Sat mat 3pm* SHANE RICHIE RETURNS AS DANNY FROM MONDAY FOR A LIMITED SEASON GREASE NOW BKG INTO 1998!

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

COMEDY THEATRE *0171 369 1731/0171 344 4444* "ASTOUNDING ORIGINALITY" *Daily Mail* "Unforgettable" Mail On Sun. Rob Morrow in "BIRDY" "Extraordinary" Gdn "ENTHRALLING" Std "Blazingly Alive" FT Time Out Critics' Choice Live the Dream Mon-Sat 8pm, Thur mat 3pm, Sat mat 5pm Limited number of tickets available at £9.50 on the day. LAST TWO WEEKS

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444 BEST COMEDY *Laurence Olivier Award Nominee* REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged) All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes "Hilarious" Times Mats Thur at 3, Sat at 5 Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged) *Tuesday at 8pm* London's Longest Running Comedy Hit

DOMINION 0171 656 1885/0990 204020/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6096/312 1997/ 0800 614903 The Magic comes alive on stage DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST A NEW MUSICAL Prevs from Apr 29 now booking

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000 MISS SAIGON "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" NOW IN ITS 8TH EXTRAORDINARY YEAR! Eves 7 45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS 0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS BO/cc 0171 494 5075 *(no bkg fee) cc 0171 344 4444/* 420 0000 (bkg fee) Royal Shakespeare Company THE HERBAL BED By Peter Whelan "A love story, a courtroom drama and a moral thriller ONE OF THE BEST NEW PLAYS THE RSC HAS PRODUCED" S Times Mon-Sat 7 30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 FROM THURS 13 WEEKS ONLY

DUCHESS BO/cc 0171 494 5075 (no bkg fee) cc 0171 344 4444/420 0000 (with bkg fee) MAUREEN LIPMAN LIVE & KIDDING "Is non-stop entertainment... awesome" F T "very funny...a riot" Ind Eves 8pm Mats Sat 3pm MUST END TOMORROW

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/312 8033 EWAN HOOPER JAMES SIMMONS Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "The most thrilling and chilling play for years" D Mail NOW IN ITS 8TH YEAR Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm Running time 2hrs

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454 WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS The Royal National Theatre Production PIP DONAGHY SUZANNE BERTISH BARRY STANTON JB Priestley's *AN INSPECTOR CALLS* "THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D Mail "TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA" D Tel Mon-Fri 7 45, Sat 5 00 & 8 15, Wed mat 2 30

GIELGUD 0171 494 5557/ 420 0000 Grps 494 5454/420 0200 ROMANCE, ROMANCE Two New Musicals "So good they named it twice" D Tel Eves 8pm; Mats Thur & Sat 3pm

HAYMARKET 930 8800 (no bkg fee) 344 4444/420 0000 (with bkg fee) Eves 8 Mats Thur 3 & Sat 5 FOR 9 WEEKS ONLY Royal Exchange Theatre Co. *OSCAR WILDE'S* CLASSIC COMEDY LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S *AWARD WINNING MUSICAL* THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BKG TO DEC 97 Eves 7 45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LABATT'S APOLLO, 0171 416 6050/420 0000/344 4444 (fee) 416 6075/436 5588 (grps. fee) CLIFF RICHARD in HEATHCLIFF 'Spectacular, stunning' D.Mail Some seats avail in Apr/May Mon - Sat 8pm

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 494 5450/420 0200 ROBERT LINDSAY BEST ACTOR IN A MUSICAL Laurence Olivier Awards "ROBERT LINDSAY'S FAGIN IS FULL OF CHARM, WARMTH & GLEEFUL CRIMINALITY. *HE'S A HOOT*" D Exp IN OLIVER! 3RD IRREPRESSIBLE YEAR *'LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE* YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE' S.Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYCEUM cc 0171 656 1806 0990 500 800/344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6075 TIM RICE & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR "Sends Shivers Racing Down The Spine" D.Telegraph Eves 7 45 Mats Wed & Sat 3 (no bkg fee for personal callers at the Lyceum box office 10am-8pm). £15 tickets for students avail Mon-Thu are bookable in advance. Now booking to September Some seats avail at door Mon - Thu

LYRIC Shaftesbury Ave 0171 494 5045 (no bkg fee)/344 4444 (bkg fee) Now Previewing. Opens 8 Apr Eves 7 45. Wed & Sat mats 3pm SIAN PHILLIPS simply brilliant as PAM GEMS' MARLENE Directed by SEAN MATHIAS

...LAST TWO WEEKS... STARRING NORTHERN EXPOSURE'S ROB MORROW Birdy "GRIPPING" See Comedy Theatre

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252 Grps 0171 620 0741, 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 Please allow extra journey/parking time because of major roadworks. LYTTELTON Ton't 7.30, Tomor 2 15 & 7.30 THE HOMECOMING Harold Pinter *COTTESLOE* Ton't 7 30, Tomor 2.30 & 7 30 THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN a new play by Martin McDonagh

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588 *THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T S ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL* CATS Eves 7 45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT Bars open at 6 45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616 *24hrs. 420 0000 (no bkg fee)* The Peter Hall Company 12 Plays in Repertory 7 days a week WASTE by Harley Granville Barker "Sulphorous, gripping production gets Hall's first season off to a blazing start" S Times Ton't & Tomor 7 30pm CLOUD NINE by Caryl Churchill *"Disgracefully funny" D Mail* Tomor & Sun at 2 30pm HURLYBURLY by David Rabe "Savagely funny. I fully recommend it" Ind Sun & Mon at 7 30pm Tickets £10 - £19

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 413 3311 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES NOW IN ITS 12TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR Eves 7 30 Mats Thu & Sat 2 30 *Latecomers not admitted until the interval* LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) BEST MUSICAL Olivier/Drama Awards *Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards* WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS *...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval*" D Mail 10TH TRIUMPHANT YEAR Eves 7 45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm NOW BOOKING UNTIL JAN'98

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 344 4444/420 0000 (24 hrs) Eves 8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5 THE PETER HALL COMPANY PETER BOWLES CARMEN SILVERA HENRY McGEE ERIC SYKES *in Molière's hilarious comedy* THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES "POSITIVELY GLITTERING... THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS" D Mail

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 WINNER BEST CHOREOGRAPHER BEST NEW MUSICAL LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS "REAL POWER & PASSION A BLOCKBUSTER" D Tel "A BIG MAGNIFICENT EPIC MUSICAL. A GREAT EVENING OUT" S. Times MARTIN GUERRE BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG'S "MUSICAL MASTERPIECE" Int Her Trib Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00 NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987 First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 Grps 420 0200 freephone 0800 614903 *"HOT FROM BROADWAY, AND I MEAN SMOKIN'. ENOUGH ENERGY TO ELECTRIFY A CITY."* D Mail GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER Directed by Jerry Zaks "AMERICAN GRAFFITI MEETS WEST SIDE STORY" E Std. Mon-Sat 8pm, Thu & Sat Mats 3pm REDUCED PRICE THURS MAT *NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998*

QUEENS Bo cc 0171 494 5040 cc 344 4444 Grps 494 5454 PATTI LuPONE IN MASTER CLASS by TERRENCE McNALLY Prevs 18 April. Opens 6 May

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (0171 638 8891) BARBICAN: NO PERFORMANCE THE PIT. THE GENERAL FROM AMERICA *Ton't 7.15* STRATFORD (01789 295623/ cc 0171 413 1452) RST MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Ton't 7 30 SWAN. HENRY VIII Ton't 7.30 TOP CONCERT: BRIGITTE KLOAREG & WILLIAM TAYLOR Ton't 7 30

ROYAL COURT 0171 565 5000 cc: 420 0100 (24hrs) Downstairs (Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane) EAST IS EAST by Ayub Khan-Din, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat Mat 3 30pm. Upstairs (Ambassadors, West St) ATTEMPS ON HER LIFE by Martin Crimp, Eve 7 45, Sat mat 4.00 Ends Tomorrow

SAVOY BO/cc 0171 836 8888 cc 420 0000 (no bkg fee) Grps 420 0200 "OSCAR NOMINATED" Ind SIMON CALLOW "is exemplary: unsentimental, lucid, lively, absorbing" Times *THE IMPORTANCE OF* BEING OSCAR The Wit, Triumph & Tragedy of Oscar Wilde by Micheal mac Liammoir "scrupulous, intelligent, compassionate & funny...ONE OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE SERIOUS ENTERTAINMENTS IN LONDON" Sunday Times "witty, beautiful, compelling stuff" F.T Eves 8pm Mats Wed & Sat 3pm LIMITED SEASON TO 10 MAY

SHAFTESBURY BO 0171 379 5399 *24 Hr cc 0171 344 4444* 22nd April to 3rd May JIM DAVIDSON in the final tour of his Adult Pantomine SINDERELLA COMES AGAIN Evgs Mon-Fri 8 00. Sats 6.00 & 9 00

SPITALFIELDS MARKET OPERA SEDOS PRESENTS A rare opportunity to see "ON THE TOWN" Music by LEONARD BERNSTEIN Book and Lyrics by BETTY COMDEN and ADOLPH GREEN Based on an idea by JEROME ROBBINS 7 performances only - April 8th-13th Eves Tues-Sat 7 30; Mats. Sat & Sun 3.00 Box Office 0171 402 8760

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 Eves 8, Tue 2.45, Sat 5 & 8 AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP 45th YEAR

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 436 5588 "BUDDY" The Buddy Holly Story "BRILLIANT" Sun "BUDDY" "WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel "BUDDY" Tues-Thurs 8 0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5 00 & 8.30 Sunday 4.00 ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5 30 PERF 8th ELECTRIFYING YEAR Now booking 'till October 4

TRICYCLE THEATRE 0171 328 1000 Alan Howard in KINGS by & with Christopher Logue "THRILLING" FT

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 (no bkg fee) cc 420 0000 (bkg fee) "FRESH, BRAVE & FUNNY" Telegraph The New Irish Hit Comedy! WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF "HRT" by Marie Jones *"THE SPIRIT OF SHIRLEY VALENTINE LIVES ON"* Gdn Mon-Sat at 7.45pm, Thur & Sat at 3pm

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

VICTORIA PALACE *0171 834 1317* In a world of privilege a love that broke all the rules ALWAYS A NEW MUSICAL Performances From 20 May Mon-Sat at 7.30pm Wed-Sat mats at 3.00pm

WYNDHAMS 369 1736/344 4444 BEST COMEDY Eve Standard Awards BEST COMEDY Laurence Olivier Awards "ART" A new play by Yasmina Reza Trans. by Christopher Hampton "Fly, swim or skate just to see it" New York Times Eves 8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5

To advertise in this section please call the Entertainments Team on 0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH OXFORD STAGE COMPANY until 19 April Dario Fo's The COMIC Mysteries (Mistero Buffo) 'DELIGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT' Evening Standard GREENWICH THEATRE BOOKINGS 0181 858 7755

هكذا من الاهرام

هكذا من الاعلى

■ POP 2

How Supergrass were transformed from lightweight Britpoppers to heavyweight rock'n'rollers

■ POP 3

Their new album proves that the Chemical Brothers are shaping up to be one of the great acts of the 1990s

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ POP 4

The Australian rockers INXS do themselves no favours with their latest release, *Elegantly Wasted*

■ POP 5

Gorky's Zygotic Mynci win the award for most difficult album of the year to pigeon-hole

It's alright to get serious, lads

David Sinclair discovers a new heavyweight image being brewed by that ebullient trio, Supergrass

Of the key Britpop bands, Supergrass were always the jokers in the pack. Lighter than Oasis, brighter than Blur and pithier than Pulp, they made it all look so easy. Their exuberant hit single, *Alright*, became a defining anthem of youth in the summer of 1995. A song about zooming around on bikes and going down to the pub for the first time, it had an accompanying video which seemed to suggest that three likely lads from Oxford had tumbled into the world of pop almost by accident. And while their first album, *I Should Coco*, which soared to the top of the chart at about the same time, embraced a variety of musical settings and moods, the perception of the group as a bunch of carefree scamps quickly became fixed in the public mind.

Which is why the sound and look of the new Supergrass single and video, *Richard III*, is such an eye-opener. A belter of a song, it zones in with all the precision of a heat-seeking missile on a mood of frustration and alienation. In the accompanying video, Supergrass now look like the premier league, heavyweight rock'n'roll stars that they are, and at one point in the action, bassist Micky Quinn ends up flat on the floor with blood trickling from his nose.

"We've been away for about a year, and we didn't want to creep back in," Quinn says. "We wanted to give people a bit of a slap around the face. Basically, we didn't want to make another *Alright*, which would simply have reinforced that happy-go-lucky image people have got of us, although we would probably sell a lot more records if we had."

Whether the world is ready to accept the new, hard-hitting Supergrass remains to be seen. Their American record company has declined to release *Richard III*, opting instead for a different song, *Cheapskate*, which is why the group are now ensconced in a studio warehouse in East London, making another video to be used exclusively in the United States. The setting for this one is inspired by a scene in the Al Pacino movie *Scarface*, and features the band dressed up as gangsters, playing the song in a living room dominated by a palm-tree mural. They have just spent two hours videoing a mouse scurrying along a ventilator shaft, a sequence that will eventually make an intro lasting all of two seconds.

"Should have been a big, dirty rat," says singer Gaz Coombes, resplendent in a white, three-piece suit. "I'm disappointed the Americans went for a different song," Quinn says. "Basically, they want to get us on the radio there and *Cheapskate* has more the feel they want. But I still think it's a dodgy thing to happen."

This is a rare moment of complaint. For while the Damons, Jarvises and Noels of the pop world are happy to air their grievances, often pouring out their innermost feelings at the drop of a hat, Supergrass have no such inclinations. "Journalists are usually after more than we can give them," Quinn admits. "We just don't feel the need to get too involved in analysing everything."

"Being in a band is supposed to be fun and basically a way of not having to get a proper job," says drummer Danny Goffey, who is recovering from a mohican haircut that went disastrously wrong. Shorn to the scalp, he now looks like a promoter-cum-spiv of vaguely Mediterranean extraction. "Our songs don't really have any strong meaning," he casually insists.

There is a lot of hanging around on video shoots, and most bands say they hate doing them. Goffey, who is expecting the arrival at any moment of his partner, her daughter and their six-month old son, is bored and impatient to get on with things. But they all say they enjoy making videos, and maintain a generally relaxed attitude while a mob of technicians scurry around.

They will have a lot more of this sort of thing to do if at some point they take up Steven Spielberg's offer to make them stars of their own American TV series. At the moment the idea has been put on ice while Supergrass establish their identity as a group in America, but they are flattered to have attracted the attention of such a prominent movie mogul.

Both *Richard III* and *Cheapskate* are lifted from Supergrass's forthcoming second album, *In it for the Money*. While retaining the vigour and sparky appeal of their earlier work, it marks a giant step forward. Certainly, the group's British record company has pinned an awful lot of hope on its success, especially given the drastically reduced sales of the recently released album by one of their other major clients, Blur.

Whereas Blur have taken a dramatic, self-conscious lurch away from the British pop mainstream and into the murkier waters of American garageband rock, Supergrass have made a much more subtle reappraisal of their musical goals. More complex and ambitious than their first album, and certainly more rock than pop, *In it for the Money* was nevertheless recorded on about the same budget as their debut, and at the same studio in Cornwall. The big difference is that this time the group produced it themselves.

"With nobody peering over our shoulder, we didn't let anything hold us back," Coombes says. "So we would develop a wacky idea and just go for it. Sometimes it's good to trash a song, kick it around a bit, and see if it survives."

● *Supergrass appear on* TFI Friday *on Channel 4 at 6pm tonight. The single* Richard III *is out now on Parlophone. The album* In it for the Money *is released on April 21. Their UK tour begins at Manchester Apollo on May 2 and ends at Brixton Academy on May 14*

ALAN WELLER

The reborn Supergrass in person: Danny Goffey (left) and Gaz Coombes with Micky Quinn behind

JAZZ ALBUMS

Tearing it up, but gently

RON MILES
Woman's Day
(Gramavision GCD 79516, £14.99)

LIKE the music of guitarist Bill Frisell, who is heavily featured on this album, and in whose quartet trumpeter Ron Miles has played for the past two years, *Woman's Day* assimilates a wide variety of contemporary styles without a hint of contrivance. Thus softly swinging quartet pieces setting Miles's gentle, plangent trumpet against Frisell's guitar are interspersed with the odd sweet country-flavoured ballad, and occasional bursts of harshly abrasive rock. The multi-textured, adventurous music that results consistently achieves Miles's aim "to produce music that is exciting without that obvious tearing-it-up approach".

CHARLES MINGUS
Mingus Plays Piano
(Impulse! IMP 12172, £8.99)

TIME was, in the days of vinyl, when "serious" jazz fans — those into John Coltrane, Charles Mingus, Pharoah Sanders and their like — could be immediately identified by the number of distinctive orange-and-black Impulse! spines their record racks contained. Now this same shibboleth can be applied to CD collections, thanks to an extensive reissue programme of classic recordings on the label from the 1960s and early 1970s — Sonny Rollins's *Alfie*, Alice Coltrane's *Journey in Satchidananda*, Benny Carter's *Further Definitions* among them — all in highly collectable facsimiles of the original sleeves. *Mingus Plays Piano* in many ways typifies the label's artistic policy: Charles Mingus is a wonderfully eccentric pianist, and it is to Impulse!'s credit that it elicited this unique solo gem from the legendary bassist/composer.

CHRIS PARKER

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(1)	**Spice**	Spice Girls (Virgin)
2	(–)	**10**	Wet Wet Wet (Precious Organisation)
3	(3)	**Tragic Kingdom**	No Doubt (Interscope)
4	(9)	**Lisa Stansfield**	Lisa Stansfield (Arista)
5	(2)	**Still Waters**	Bee Gees (Polydor)
6	(6)	**Everything Must Go**	Manic Street Preachers (Epic)
7	(10)	***Blue is the Colour***	Beautiful South (Go! Discs)
8	(7)	**Ocean Drive**	Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
9	(5)	**Pop**	U2 (Island)
10	(15)	**Glow**	Reef (Sony S2)

Copyright CIN

Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

The beat and nothing but the beat

POP ALBUMS: The Chemical Brothers are rebuilding rock, and the result is a millennial blast

THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS
Dig Your Own Hole
(Freestyle Dust/Virgin 7243 8 42950, £13.99)

WITH their new single, *Block Rockin' Beats*, providing eloquent proof that they can stroll to the top of the chart with or without the help of Noel Gallagher, it is clear that the Chemical Brothers are shaping up to be one of the touchstone acts of the 1990s. Their second album, *Dig Your Own Hole*, is certainly the stuff of which watersheds are made.

As on the previous outing, *Exit Planet Dust*, conventional notions of melody and song structure are brusquely rejected. Apart from Gallagher's woozy vocal on *Setting Sun*, and a stretch of folky warbling by Beth Orton at the start of the neo-psychedelic *Where Do I Begin*, there is no singing.

Instead, *Dig Your Own Hole* offers a millennial, club/rock celebration of the beat, the whole beat and virtually nothing but the beat. Not the monotonously regimented, Kraftwerk-derived beats that have dominated the house and techno scene since the late 1980s, but an exhilarating, rocked-up version of the syncopated rhythms beloved of jazz fusionists such as Herbie Hancock (*Block Rockin' Beats*), hip hop pioneers such as Grandmaster Melle Mel (*Lost In The K-Hole*) and the inventor of funk, Mr James Brown himself (*Get Up On It Like This*).

Adorned with little more than a bass line, fragments of rap and various scratch and shatter sound effects that explode like depth charges in the guts of the arrangements, these churning rhythm tracks burst out of the speakers like dogs in pursuit of a mechanical hare.

Combining studio and turntable techniques that the original rock'n'rollers could not have dreamt of, with a calculated style of musical barbarism, the Chemical Brothers are rebuilding rock from its rhythmic foundations up. The effect is a righteously uncompromising album which is going to scorch a mark on the music scene of 1997 like a nuclear burn.

INXS
Elegantly Wasted
(Mercury 534 613, £13.99)

TWENTY years since they started playing local pubs in Australian mining towns, the same six men who still comprise INXS have managed the transition to middle-aged stardom in surprisingly good order. While one would imagine that their continued success is more a triumph of application than of inspiration, their last two albums produced many moments to treasure, and they ought, theoretically, to be well placed to capitalise on the current mood of the market with their classic dance/rock crossover sound.

However, they do themselves no favours with the dull sloganeering of this album's title track, one of several songs, including the sketchy *Girl On Fire* and pretentious *She Is Rising*, that sound too much like INXS-by-numbers for comfort.

Of the more melodically developed songs, *Searching* uncovers a tender, almost pleading tone in Michael Hutchence's voice, while the pounding *Shake The Tree* is one of several passages of high drama. But although they strike all the familiar musical poses this album has a hollow ring. Rather like its decadently self-regarding title, *Elegantly Wasted* lacks soul.

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498.

GORKY'S ZYGOTIC MYNCI
Barafundle
(Fontana 534 769, £13.99)

GORKY'S Zygotic Mynci are the Welsh band who have built an impressive word-of-mouth reputation, considering no one knows how to pronounce their name. Their fourth album, *Barafundle*, wins the most-difficult-to-pigeonhole collection of the year award by a mile.

A combination of primarily acoustic musical textures, intricate harmonies and obscure Welsh whimsy, tracks such as *Sometimes The Father Is The Son* and *Miniature Kingdoms* have a quaint pastoral charm. An intriguing sense of olde worlde otherness is bolstered by devices such as a three-piece shawm (medieval oboe) section on *Starmoonsun* and "monk voices" on *Pen Gwag Glas*. At the same time, their inability to play through a song without introducing a sudden time or tempo change recalls the irritating working practices, if not the precise sound, of prog-rock hippie outfits such as Caravan and Gentle Giant.

Crazy name, crazy guys.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Basquiat — Original Soundtrack
(Island 524 260, £15.49)

APART from David Bowie's sensational performance in the role of Andy Warhol, the best thing about the movie biography of the artist Jean-Michel Basquiat is the soundtrack. With numbers by John Cale (*Hallelujah*), Tom Waits (*Tom Traubert's Blues*), PJ Harvey (a specially recorded *Is That All There Is?*), Them (*It's All Over Now, Baby Blue*) and many others, it is a tremendously evocative compendium.

Unfortunately, the Rolling Stones number, *Beast Of Burden*, which is played just as Courtney Love makes her devil woman entrance in the film, is one of several tracks which are missing. Whatever the reason, an otherwise great album is diminished.

DAVID SINCLAIR

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER WITH

THE TIMES
NOW PRINTED IN CHARLEROI

Make your family or friends living abroad feel at home

Set up a subscription to The Times for them at **substantial discounts** off local cover price and let them enjoy **early morning delivery on the day of publication.**

SINGLE DAY SUBSCRIPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE.

The Times. Your family and friends are missing the best of quality reading without it.

Same day hand delivery is available as follows: **Belgium** — main cities; **France** — Paris and postcodes 92, 93, 94; **Luxembourg** — nationwide, same day delivery by post; **Netherlands** — main cities; **Switzerland** — Geneva, Bern & Zurich. Mail delivery is usually one day late (except rest of Europe). Please call for details on hand delivery areas and mail delivery.

HAND DELIVERY RATES (except Rest of Europe)

Country	Currency	12 months	Savings on cover price	6 months	3 months	Single Day (Mon-Fri) 1 year	Saturday Only 1 year
Belgium	(BFr)	13898	45%	7534	3938	2283	3329
France	(FFr)	1985	55%	1091	571	331	502
Luxembourg	(LFr)	9164	51%	5040	2635	1527	2611
Netherlands	(DFl)	778	45%	428	224	130	188
Switzerland	(SFr)	809	35%	445	232	135	177
Rest of Europe	(£)	474	n/a	237	118.5	79.04	130

THE TIMES SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

Name
Address (home/office)
Telephone
(*) Debited in £ Sterling at the current exchange rate

Please enter my subscription for:
☐ 12 months ☐ 6 months ☐ 3 months
☐ Monday to Saturday ☐ Saturday only
☐ Other day(s) — Please specify ____
Payment by:
☐ Cheque (made payable to News International)
☐ Credit card (*): ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard/Access
☐ AmEx No: ____ Expiry __/__
Signature:
Print Name:

Please return to: News International, Subscriptions Department, P.O. Box 14, Ashton Gate, Ashton Road, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex, England, RM3 8ED. Telephone: (+) 44 1708 381 577 Fax: 00 44 1708 371 278.

CHANGING TIMES

Rolling their own in Havana

WORLD MUSIC: Nigel Williamson on Ry Cooder's Cuban mission

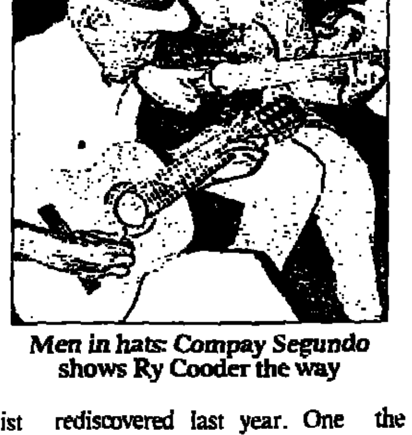
Ry Cooder says it was the best musical experience of his life and rumour has it that Phil Collins is on the way. While the Americans tighten the noose of the trade blockade on Cuba, the rhythms of salsa have suddenly made Havana the fashionable place for rock musicians to hang out and record.

Cooder is rhapsodic about recording with Cuban musicians on his new album, *Buena Vista Social Club*, his first since the Grammy award-winning *Talking Timbuktu*. "This is the best thing I was ever involved in," he says without hesitation.

Something of a legend himself, Cooder seems almost awe-struck to share the spotlight with a cast-list of legendary Cuban veterans who practically invented the exotic rhythms of son and rumba, mambo and salsa. They include Compay Segundo, an 89-year-old guitarist and composer whom Cooder describes simply as "the source", and Ruben Gonzalez, 77, "the greatest piano soloist I have ever heard in my life". Both men will make their first visits to Britain this summer.

"Cuban musicians are unique," says Cooder. "The organisation of the musical group is perfectly understood, there is no ego, no jockeying for position."

This lack of ego led to three extraordinary albums being recorded inside two weeks in Havana last March. In addition to *his own recording*, Cooder guests on the Afro-Cuban All Stars album, a recreation of the big band sound of the "golden era" of the 1940s and 1950s. And he also encouraged Ruben Gonzalez to make his debut solo album, more than half a century after the pianist first entered a recording studio with the great band leader Arsenio Rodriguez.



Men in hats: Compay Segundo shows Ry Cooder the way

A quietly spoken, modest man, Gonzalez did not even own a piano when he was rediscovered last year. One day he wandered into the Havana studio where Cooder and the All Stars were recording and began playing while they took a coffee break. "It was a brand new, beautiful piano and I had to play it. Then someone turned up the lights and I thought they wanted me to go because I was interrupting. But they asked me to stay."

Compay Segundo, the other star of Cooder's Havana sessions, is the ultimate living legend. The composer of hundreds of classic Cuban songs, two years ago he struck a new European recording deal, possibly the oldest act ever to be signed to a major label. Between Cooder and Segundo there exists a special chemistry, bordering on reverence. "Compay is the last of the best," says the younger man. "As soon as he walked into the studio it all kicked in. He was the leader, the fulcrum. He knew the best songs and how to do them."

Segundo could easily have made a fortune in America or Europe. Top salsa stars such as Willie Colon have recorded his songs — yet he receives not a cent in royalties because of the American blockade. "But I would never leave Cuba. Here there is tranquillity, you can do whatever you want. Why would I want to go anywhere else?"

Yet Cuban music is changing and Segundo and Gonzalez may be the last of a dying breed. Miami is only half an hour away and despite the blockade the American influence is huge. Juan d'Marcos, 42, who leads Cuba's top son band Sierra Maestra and who put together the Afro-Cuban All Stars, says: "Son has fused with a Cuban version of rap music and it is very poor quality, badly written, disordered and aggressive. I think Cuban music is in crisis."

Sooner or later, culturally something is certain to be lost. Cooder is simply grateful that he got there before it is too late. "Music is a treasure hunt," he says. "You dig and dig and you find traces. But there I found it all."

● A Toda Cuba Le Gusta *by the Afro-Cuban All Stars is out now;* Introducing Ruben Gonzalez *is released on May 12;* Buena Vista Social Club *is released on June 9 (all on World Circuit). The Afro-Cuban All Stars and Ruben Gonzalez begin their UK tour tomorrow at Watermans Arts Centre, Brentford (0181-568 1176)*

PREVIEWS FROM 18 APRIL

QUEENS THEATRE
SEE CLASSIFIED FOR DETAILS

■ TELEVISION

Shakespeare for the people: two professionals and a whole estate of amateurs tackle *Macbeth*

■ THEATRE

Screen violence comes under the *spotlight in Ben* Elton's gripping play, *Popcorn*, now in the West End

THE TIMES ARTS

■ TOMORROW

A thousand days to go before the millennium, but is Britain already slipping behind the clock?

■ MONDAY

Special guest Ike Turner joins Joe Louis Walker at the Shepherds Bush Empire: we review the gig

TELEVISION: **Eve-Ann Prentice** on how the residents of a Birmingham housing estate came to perform *Macbeth*

Getting into toil and trouble

A gang of marauding thugs on a hell-hole council estate bundle the beaten-up head of a rival gang into a car, pour petrol on him and hurl a burning rag in through the car *window*.

Shortly afterwards, the micro-skirted wife of one of the victorious gangsters eggs on her bruise-knuckled and tattooed husband to challenge his boss and rule the estate himself.

The setting for this play, to be broadcast on BBC2 tomorrow *night*, is vile — a *nightmare* inner-city sprawl of broken windows and derelict land, peopled by anarchic louts whose only hope of higher things is the National Lottery and the ability to wield a baseball bat with skull-smashing ferocity.

The script is tough and powerful, yet it has been familiar to theatregoers for hundreds of years. For the play is *Macbeth*, and it was filmed *on the Ladywood housing estate in* Birmingham last summer, with a multiracial cast including 130 local residents who worked alongside professional actors. This is Shakespeare of the people, for the people, by the people.

> ❛ It's not heavyweight violence. I thought it would be like *Reservoir Dogs* ❜

Macbeth on the Estate keeps Shakespeare's words — albeit heavily pruned — but shifts the power struggle to a modern world where Duncan is a *lager-swilling* estate godfather who controls the locals with a gang of thugs led by Macbeth and Banquo. There are no witches, but three spooky children make the prediction that Macbeth will take Duncan's place, sparking the blood-letting.

The professional actors are led by James Frain of *Mill on the Floss* fame, and Susan Vidler, late of *Trainspotting and Naked. Their* portrayal of a jeans-clad Macbeth and his Lycra-laced wife are powerful and strangely empathy-earning. But what lifts the play into the realm of the memorable are the performances by the locals. These range from the young, old, black and white, whose faces mirror the horror of the power struggle evolving around them, to key roles played by unmarried mother Patsi Fox as Lady Macduff (with her real daughter Paige as her stage daughter), and van driver Martin O'Brien as Seyton.

KIM SCOTT-CLARK/NEWS TEAM

Patsi Fox (Lady Macduff) with 19-month-old Paige: some residents feared the film would give the estate a false reputation for violence, but the BBC stressed that it was chosen because of its "peaceful atmosphere"

What makes the play even more remarkable is that most of the Ladywood estate tenants who took part were totally ignorant of the Bard's works before filming began.

Macbeth on the Estate is the brainchild of the documentary-maker Penny Woolcock, who gained her first experience of making television programmes only in her thirties, after a teenage pregnancy and a tough early life.

The script has been heavily cut, but the clever use of modern images helps to provide possible explanations for some mystifying aspects of Shakespeare's original. Why does the coolly calculating *Lady Macbeth suddenly become* unhinged? Woolcock uses images of an empty nursery to imply that Macbeth's wife is grieving for a dead baby and that the murders of Macduff's wife and his children were too much for her.

This latest venture marks Woolcock's debut in the field of drama, and is the natural offspring of her award-winning 1994 documentary, *Shakespeare on the Estate*, which featured local people *performing extracts.*

Most of the play was filmed in and around Cavell House, a derelict block of flats on the Ladywood estate, and in the nearby Pied Piper *public house. The making of the* play initially caused friction between the locals taking part and some residents who feared it would give the area a false reputation for violence. The BBC has been at pains to stress that the estate was chosen because of Ladywood's "peaceful atmosphere and community spirit". Ladywood, which has Clare Short as its MP, is *currently undergoing a £40 million* regeneration programme.

Patsi Fox, 28, had never read or heard a line of Shakespeare before the play was filmed. "I like the way Penny [Woolcock] has done it. I don't like the old way: it is too old-*fashioned," she said last week* as she and her partner, Patrick, were preparing to move from Ladywood to a new home in Winson Green. It was not the language which caused her the most difficulty, but singing *I Will Survive* in the pub at 7am in a scene depicting the wake following Duncan's murder.

Her *19-month-old* daughter was not distressed by the violence in *many scenes, she says, although* there were real tears, captured on screen, when her mother fell to the floor after being felled in the play.

"But it is not heavyweight violence," says Fox. "I thought it would be like *Reservoir Dogs.*"

Now Fox hopes to become an actress: "It's a secret ambition of *mine.* I could quite easily slot into that way of life. I find it very easy and natural. The best part of making the play for me was the experience of working with proper actors, the producer and the director — they can't take that experience away from me."

O'Brien, 32, was so bored by the *little Shakespeare he learnt at* school that he opted to make props for the school *drama department* rather than take part. With *Macbeth on the Estate*, he "loved every minute of it". Now he is looking for an agent in the hope of pursuing a *full-time acting career. "This has* really whetted my appetite for acting and *for* Shakespeare," he says. "I find the language very rich, it explains everything perfectly, and today's language is so boring in comparison."

One television which will definitely be tuned in tomorrow night is more used to showing National Lottery draws and football matches *— the set over the bar at the Pied* Piper.

- *Macbeth on the Estate is on BBC2 at 10.30pm tomorrow*

Chance to shine wasted

CONCERT

Smith Quartet
Purcell Room

IF COLOURED lighting is needed to bring in the masses, then so be it. However, although I found the lighting plot for the Smith Quartet's New Works programme neither helpful nor distracting, it *did not help to fill the hall.*

Why it should be thought necessary to amplify a string quartet in the Purcell Room is another mystery — other ensembles seem to manage without — but this, too, is part of the show. *In three of the four* pieces heard it added nothing, save for the inevitable distant hum and the odd crackle. Would that some of the razzmatazz had, indeed, enhanced some of the rather uninspiring fare on offer.

Kevin Volans's *Hunting: Gathering* was particularly arid. Consisting of three movements, called *Expeditions*, the work is conceived as an unplanned journey. Musical fragments are presented in abundance "strung together in a pseudo-narrative". The second expedition, for example, *begins with motifs* redolent of the Italian Baroque concerto, but they eventually give way to much thrumming of repeated notes, never to return. An unplanned *journey* is one thing: a purposeless one quite another.

Simon Emmerson's *Fields of Attraction*, receiving its first performance, seemed more worth the effort and was *certainly* more coherent; it also featured some novel sonorities produced by sliding on the string. Steven Mackey's *Great Crossing, Great Divide* was commissioned by Netherlands Radio for the Smith Quartet, to be performed as an *encore at the Great Crossing* Festival in Amsterdam. More weighty than an encore piece might suggest, nevertheless, it barely registers in its three minutes.

Best of the bunch was the String Quartet No 3 (*Le Miroir*) by the Belgian composer, Walter Hus. The second movement, *Reflet*, continues, in varied form, the vigorous and impressive contrapuntal discourse of the first movement's central section. The first movement, *Miroir I*, *begins and ends with the kind* of crazy distortions you might expect in a seaside house of mirrors. But the tortured harmonies of the third movement and equally austere finale are anything but a frolic: Hus's latest quartet is serious business.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Deep in the dark heart of Hollywood

THEATRE

Popcorn
Apollo

Four years ago a gang in Manchester tortured a girl and set her on fire, repeating a phrase from *Child's Play 3:* "I'm Chucky — wanna play?" It is possible that one of Jamie Bulger's *killers had seen the same film* and the same demonic doll. I *imagine that Quentin Tarantino* and Oliver Stone would regard horror flicks like that as irretrievably crude, yet *Reservoir Dogs* and *Natural Born Killers* raise rather similar worries. In their cool, *stylish way, don't they slip into* that part of the mind where scruple resides and leave just a few brain cells twisted out of shape before making their exit?

That's only one of several questions Ben Elton asks about America and, to a lesser extent, Britain in his stimulating, gripping new play; and maybe it is not the most important.

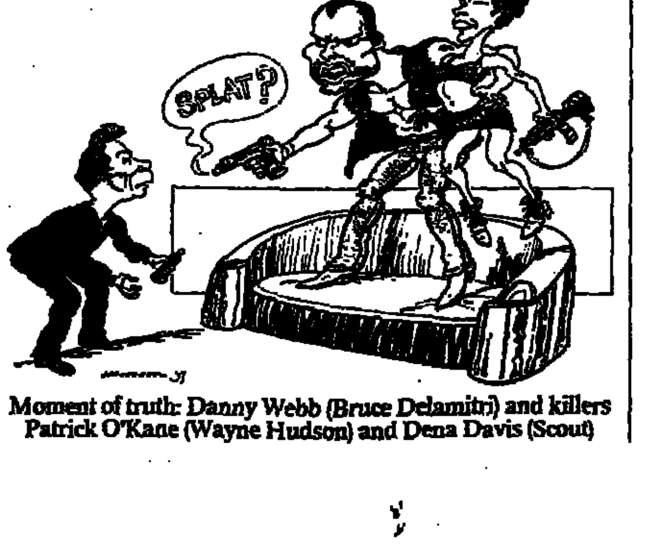
He touches on obsession with celebrity, the power of the media and, above all, people's passion for blaming others for the wrongs they perpetrate as well as those they suffer. *Popcorn* ends with a Jacobean body count for which no modern-day Hamlet or Iago takes responsibility. I don't think I'm betraying secrets if I reveal that counterparts of Horatio, the English ambassadors, the Polonius estate, the Elsinore social services and *the Danish state are all being* sued as the curtain falls.

Why? You can discover either by reading the novel *Popcorn*, which is more wide-ranging and elaborate, or by seeing the play Elton wrote at *the same time*, which is more powerful. After all, the theatre forces you to keep watching the chic young director Bruce Delamitri as he returns to his *Beverly Hills pad after* winning an Oscar, only to find himself, his sexy escort, and finally his wife and daughter held hostage by two fans who happen also to be mass murderers. You cannot turn down a page and go for a walk, *and*, thanks to Laurence Boswell's taut, crisp production, you won't want to do so.

Forget their inexplicable Southern accents, and Patrick O'Kane and Dena Davis are excellent as mean, tattooed Wayne and sentimental Scout, the *drifters* who have left scores of corpses in their wake. Danny Webb is not arrogant or disdainful enough for an auteur who believes that, despite a body count of 57, his movie *Ordinary Americans* is a key *contribution to culture*: but he comes into his own when fear and anger are needed. Rightly, his Bruce reserves true horror for his captors' direst threat: that he help them to escape the electric chair by confessing on live TV that his movies inspired their *mayhem.*

Elton has come far as a dramatist since his *Gasping* and *Poor Cow*, and makes the debate that ensues a perfectly logical *happening. The only objection* is that some of the content — Wayne's "*I'm your profit, you* exploit my sickness" — is less trailer-park talk than Elton earnestness. But though it occasionally embraces caricature; *Popcorn* is a subtler, more textured piece than it might seem. For *instance*, Wayne, with his dopey patriotism, and Scout, with her dim propriety, are indeed rather similar to the banal thugs you find in *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction*. Maybe Bruce is *merely passing one kind of* buck in order to make another, *or maybe his films do tell* truths about America, or maybe a bit of both. Good for Ben Elton for giving us tough subjects to chew.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Moment of truth: Danny Webb (Bruce Delamitri) and killers Patrick O'Kane (Wayne Hudson) and Dena Davis (Scout)

unforgettable
performance
ZOVIRAX
COLD SORE CREAM
Contains aciclovir
Always read the label
it really works!

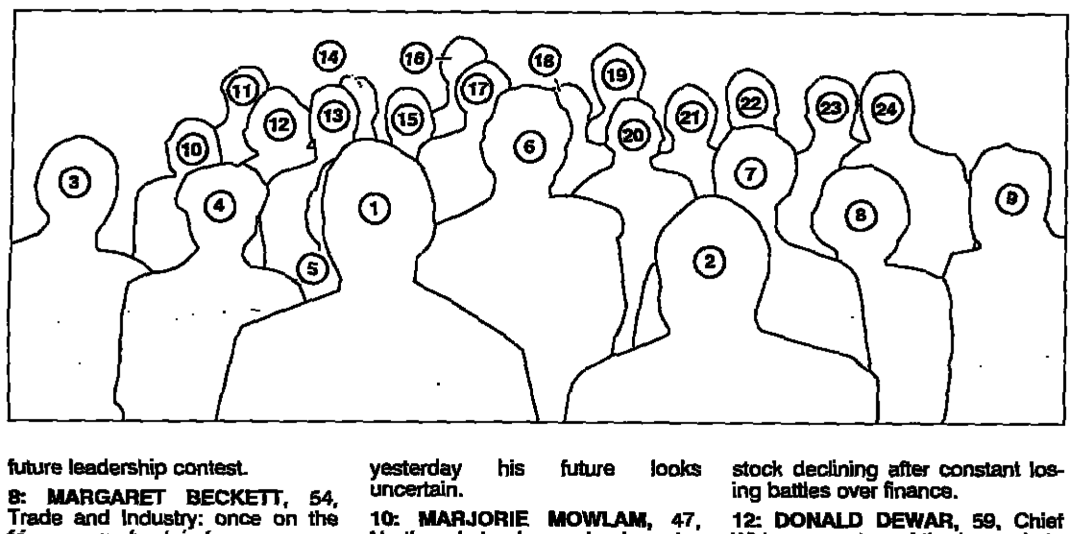
José Feliciano.
Still magical after all these years.
FELICIANO
'Americano', the stunning new album from the legendary José Feliciano, is now available in the UK.
Appearing live at HMV, 150 Oxford Street, on Tuesday 8th April at 6pm.
DÉBUTANTE
Available on CD: 'Americano': 553 100-2 in all good record shops and direct from the Music Store on 0161 232 1200.

[illegible] من الأهرام

THE TIMES

LABOUR MANIFESTO

Labour's gang of 24 waiting and hoping in the shadows



1: TONY BLAIR, 43, Labour leader: undisputed master of his party but no experience of government.

2: JOHN PRESCOTT, 59, deputy Labour leader: a turbulent and *rumbustious figure* who will have a key Cabinet role. May have an overlord role ruling the regions, environment and industry.

3: JACK STRAW, 50, Home Office: a moderniser and key Blairite who *will be rewarded for his loyalty.*

4: ANN TAYLOR, 49, Leader of the *House:* may switch to become the first woman Chief Whip after *winning plaudits for her handling of the* Nolan report.

5: DAVID BLUNKETT, 49 *(hidden* behind Mr Blair), Education and Employment: the star of the past 18 months who has transformed policy *without tearing the party apart.*

6: GORDON BROWN, 46, Shadow Chancellor: *the second most* powerful man in a Blair government as occupant of Number 11.

7: ROBIN COOK, 51, Foreign Office: standard-bearer of the left. He will be *Blair's* Foreign Secretary and the candidate of the left in any future leadership contest.

8: MARGARET BECKETT, 54, Trade and Industry: once on the fringes, now back in favour.

9: FRANK DOBSON, 57, Environment: despite having laughed at all Blair's jokes at *manifesto* launch yesterday his future looks uncertain.

10: MARJORIE MOWLAM, 47, Northern Ireland: a moderniser who has earned respect for her handling of a notoriously sensitive *portfolio.*

11: CHRIS SMITH, 45, *Health:* stock declining after constant losing battles over finance.

12: DONALD DEWAR, 59, Chief Whip: a member of the inner-circle destined for high office at the very *heart of a Blair Cabinet.*

13: HARRIET HARMAN, 46, Social Security: on the way down having never recovered from the fiasco of her choice of children's schools.

14: JACK CUNNINGHAM, 59, Heritage: one of the few to have had *experience of government.*

15: ALISTAIR DARLING, Chief Secretary to *Treasury: highly re*garded, poised for advancement.

16: CLARE SHORT, 51, Overseas Development: rehabilitated after being reunited with her long-lost *adopted son.* May head new International Development department.

17: RON DAVIES, 50, Wales: gaffe-prone, but skilfully handled bitter arguments in Welsh party over *devolution.*

18: GEORGE ROBERTSON, 49, Scotland: will be *rewarded for* taking the flak over internal rows in Labour Party over referendum on *devolution.*

19: GAVIN STRANG, 53, Agri*culture: one of only four members of the Shadow Cabinet to have held* ministerial office in the last Labour government. Expected casualty of first reshuffle.

20: TOM CLARKE, 56, Disabled Rights: has read the runes and already suggested he would be prepared to take a Minister of State role.

21: DAVID CLARK, 57, Defence: grey, safe, but completely dull. *Unlikely* to rise further than his *current brief.*

22: DEREK FOSTER, 59, *Duchy of Lancaster:* was given the job as the price for giving up Chief Whip's job. Speculation he could be kicked upstairs *to the Lords.*

23: MICHAEL MEACHER, 57, *Environmental Protection: unreconstructed* old Left and early favourite for demotion.

24: ANDREW SMITH, 46, Transport: the unassuming face of Blairism who is a safe pair of hands *in the driving seat.*

■ A fresh start ■ A party transformed ■ Build a modern welfare state ■ Lead reform in Europe

Britain can and must do better

I believe in Britain. It is a great country with a great history. The British people are a great people. But I believe Britain can and must be *better: better schools, better hospitals,* better ways of tackling crime, of building a modern welfare state, of equipping ourselves for a new world economy.

I want a Britain that *is one nation,* with shared values and purpose, where merit comes before privilege, run for the many not the few, strong and sure of itself at home and abroad.

I want a *Britain that does not shuffle into* the *new millennium* afraid of the future, but strides into it with confidence.

I want to renew our country's *faith in the ability of its government* and politics *to deliver this new Britain. I want to do it* by making a *limited set* of important promises and achieving them. This is the purpose of the bond of trust I set out at the end of this introduction, in which ten specific commitments are put before you. Hold us to them. They are our *covenant* with you.

I want to *renew faith* in politics by being *honest* about the last 18 *years. Some* things the Conservatives got right. We will not change them. It is where they got things wrong that we will make change. We have no intention or desire to replace one set of dogmas by another.

I want to renew faith in politics through a government that will govern in the interest of the *many,* the broad *majority of people* who work hard, *play* by the rules, pay their *dues* and *feel* let down by a *political system* that gives the *breaks* to the few, to an elite at the top increasingly out of touch with the rest of us.

And I want, above all, to govern in a way that brings our country together, that unites our *nation* in facing the tough *and dangerous* challenges of the new economy and changed society in which we must live. I want a Britain which we all *feel part of, in whose future we all have a stake, in which* what I want for my own children I want for yours.

■ A new politics

The reason *for having created new Labour is to meet the challenges of* a different world. The millennium symbolises a new era opening up for Britain. I am confident about our future prosperity, even optimistic, *if we have the courage to change* and use it to build a better Britain.

To accomplish this means more than just a change of government. Our aim is no less than to set British political life on a new course *for the future.*

People are cynical about politics and distrustful of political promises. That is hardly surprising. There have been few more gross breaches of faith than when the Conservatives under Mr Major promised, *before the election of* 1992, *that they would not raise taxes,* but would cut them every year: and then went on to raise them by the largest amount in peacetime history starting in the first Budget after the election. The Exchange Rate Mechanism as the cornerstone of economic policy, Europe, health, crime, *schools,* sleaze — the *broken promises are* strewn across the country's *memory.*

The Conservatives' broken promises taint all politics. That is why we have made it our guiding rule not to promise what we cannot deliver; and to deliver what we promise. What follows is not the politics of a 100 days that dazzles for a time, then fizzles out. *It is not the politics* of a revolution, *but of a fresh start,* the *patient* rebuilding and renewing *of this country* — renewal that *can* take root and build over time.

That is one way in which politics in Britain will gain a new lease of life. But there is another. We aim to put behind us the bitter political struggles of Left and Right that have torn our country apart for too *many* decades. *Many of these* conflicts have no relevance whatsoever to the modern world — public versus private, bosses versus workers, middle class versus working class. *It is time for this country to move on and move forward.* We are proud of our history, proud of what we have achieved — but we must learn from our history, not be chained to it.

■ New Labour

The purpose of new Labour is to give Britain a different political choice: the choice between a failed Conservative Government, exhausted *and* divided *in everything* other than its desire to cling on to power, and a new and revitalised Labour Party that has been resolute in transforming itself into a party of the future.

We have *rewritten our constitution, the new* Clause IV, to put a commitment to enterprise alongside the commitment to justice. We have changed the way we make policy, and put our relations with the trade unions on a modern footing where they accept they can get fairness but no favours from a *Labour government.* Our *MPs are all now* selected by ordinary party *members,* not small committees or pressure groups. The membership itself has doubled, to over 400,000, with half the members having joined since the last election.

We submitted our draft manifesto, *New Labour New Life for Britain,* to a ballot of all *our members,* 95 *per cent of whom* gave it their express endorsement.

We are a national party, supported today by people from all walks of life, from the successful businessman or woman to the pensioner on a council estate. Young people have flooded in to join us in what is the fastest growing youth section of any political party in the West.

■ The vision

We are a broad-based movement for progress and justice. New Labour is the political arm of none other than the British people as a *whole. Our values are the same: the* equal worth of all, with no one cast aside: fairness and justice within strong communities.

But we have liberated these values *from outdated* dogma or *doctrine, and we have applied these* values to the modern world.

I want a country in which people get on, do well, make a success of their lives. I have no time for the *politics of envy.* We need more *successful entrepreneurs,* not fewer of them. But these life-chances should be for all the people. And I want a society in which ambition and compassion are seen as partners not *opposites* — where we *value public service as well as* material wealth.

New Labour believes in a society where we do not simply pursue our own individual aims but where we hold many aims in common and work together to achieve them. How we build the industry and employment opportunities of the *future: how we tackle the division and inequality in our society: how we care for* and enhance our environment and quality of life; how we develop modern education and health services; how we create communities that are safe, where mutual respect and tolerance are the order of the day. These are things we must achieve together as a country.

The *vision is one of national renewal,* a country *with drive,* purpose and energy. A Britain equipped to prosper in a global economy of technological change; with a modern welfare state; its politics more accountable: and confident of its place in the world.

■ Programme: a new Centre and Centre Left politics

In each area of policy a new and *distinctive approach has been* mapped out, one that *differs* both from the solutions of the old Left and those of the Conservative Right. This is why new Labour is *new. We believe in the strength of* our values, but we recognise also that the policies of 1997 cannot be those of 1947 or 1967. More detailed policy has been produced by us than by any opposition in history. *Our direction and destination are* clear.

The old Left would have sought state control of industry. The Conservative Right is content to leave all to the market. *We reject* both approaches. *Government and* industry must work together to achieve key objectives aimed at enhancing the dynamism of the market, not undermining it.

In industrial relations, we make *it clear that there will be no return* to flying pickets, secondary action, strikes with no ballots or the trade union law of the 1970s. There will instead be basic minimum rights for the individual at the workplace, where our aim is partnership, not conflict, between employers and employees.

In economic management, we *accept the* global economy as a reality and reject the isolationism and "go-it-alone" policies of the extremes of Right or Left.

In education, we reject both the idea of a return to the 11-plus and the monolithic comprehensive schools that take no account of children's differing abilities. *Instead we favour all-in schooling which identifies the* distinct abilities of individual pupils and organises them in classes to maximise their progress in individual subjects. In this way we modernise the comprehensive principle, learning from the experience of its 30 years of application.

In health policy, we will safeguard the basic principles of the NHS, which we founded, but will not return to the top-down manage*ment of the 1970s. So we will keep the planning* and *provision* of healthcare separate, but put planning on a longer-term, decentralised and more co-operative basis. *The key* is to root out *unnecessary administrative* cost, *and to spend* money on the right things — frontline care.

On crime, we believe in *personal responsibility* and in punishing crime, but also tackling its underlying causes — so, tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime, *different from the Labour approach of the past and the Tory policy of* today.

Over-centralisation of government and lack of accountability was a problem in governments of both Left and Right. Labour is *committed to the democratic* renewal of our country through decentralisation and the elimination of excessive government secrecy.

In addition, we will face up to the new issues that confront us. We will *be the party of welfare reform. In consultation and partnership with the people,* we will design a modern welfare state based on rights and duties going together, fit for the modern world.

We will stand up for Britain's interests in Europe after the shambles of the last six years, but, more than that, we will lead a campaign for reform in Europe. Europe isn't *working in the way this country and Europe need. But to lead means to be involved,* to be constructive, to be capable of getting our own way.

We will put concern for the environment at the heart of policy-making, so that it is not an add-on extra, but informs the whole of government, from housing and energy policy through to global warming and international agreements.

We will search out at every turn *new ways and new ideas* to tackle the new issues: how to encourage more flexible working hours and practices to suit employees and employers alike; how to harness the huge potential of the new informa*tion technology: how to simplify the* processes of the government machine; how to put public and private sector together in partnership to give us the infrastructure and *transport* system we need.

We will be a radical *government.* But the definition of radicalism will not be that of doctrine, whether of Left or Right, but of achievement. *New Labour* is a party of ideas and *ideals but not of outdated ideology.* What counts is what works. The objectives are radical. The means will be modern.

So the party is transformed. The vision is clear. And from that vision *stems a modern programme of* change and renewal for Britain. We understand that after 18 years of one-party rule, people want change, believe that it is necessary for the country and for democracy, but require faith to make the change.

We therefore set out in the manifesto that follows ten commitments, commitments that form our bond of trust with the people. They are specific. They are real. Judge us on them. Have trust in us and we will repay that trust.

Our mission in politics is to rebuild this bond of trust between government and the people. That is the only way democracy can flourish. I *pledge to Britain* a government *which shares their hopes,* which understands their fears, and which will work as partners with and for all our people, not just the privileged few. This is our contract with the people.

Continued on next page

■ Modernise schools ■ Raise standards ■ Parental power ■ Economic stability ■ Fair taxes

ROBIN MAYES

Moral leader: Tony Blair leaving home yesterday for the launch of his manifesto

This is Labour's five-year contract with the people

OVER the five years of a Labour government:

1: Education will be our number one priority, and we will increase the share of national income spent on education as we decrease it on the bills of economic and social failure.
2: There will be no increase in the basic or top rates of income tax.
3: We will provide stable economic growth with low inflation, and promote dynamic and competitive business and industry at home and abroad
4: We will get 250,000 young unemployed off benefit and into work.
5: We will rebuild the NHS, reducing spending on administration and increasing spending on patient care
6: We will be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime, and halve the time it takes persistent juvenile offenders to come to court.
7: We will help build strong families and strong communities, and lay the foundations of a modern welfare state in pensions and community care
8: We will safeguard our environment, and develop an integrated transport policy to fight congestion and pollution
9: We will clean up politics, decentralise political power throughout the United Kingdom and put the funding of political parties on a proper and accountable basis
10: We will give Britain the leadership in Europe which Britain and Europe need

We have modernised the Labour Party and we will modernise Britain. This means knowing where we want to go: being clear-headed about the country's future; telling the truth; making tough choices; insisting that all parts of the public sector live within their means; taking on vested interests that hold people back; standing up to unreasonable demands from any quarter; and being prepared to give a moral lead where government has responsibilities it should not avoid.

Britain does deserve better. And new Labour will be better for Britain.

We will make education our No 1 priority:

☐ Cut classes to 30 or under for 5, 6 and 7 years
☐ Nursery places for all four year-olds
☐ Attack low standards in schools
☐ Access to computer technology
☐ Lifelong learning through a new University for Industry
☐ More spending on education as the cost of unemployment falls

EDUCATION

EDUCATION has been the Tories' biggest failure. It is Labour's number one priority.

It is not just good for the individual. It is an economic necessity for the nation. We will compete successfully on the basis of quality or not at all. And quality comes from developing the potential of all our people. It is the people who are our greatest natural asset. We will ensure they can fulfil their potential.

Nearly half of 11 year-olds in England and Wales fail to reach expected standards in English and maths. Britain has a smaller share of 17 and 18 year-olds in full-time education than any major industrial nation. Nearly two-thirds of the British workforce lack vocational qualifications.

There are excellent schools in Britain's state education system. But far too many children are denied the opportunity to succeed. Our task is to raise the standards of every school.

We will put behind us the old arguments that have bedevilled education in this country. We reject the Tories' obsession with school structures: all parents should be offered real choice through good quality schools, each with its own strengths and individual ethos. There should be no return to the 11-plus. It divides children into successes and failures at far too early an age.

We must modernise comprehensive schools. Children are not all of the same ability, nor do they learn at the same speed. That means setting children in classes to maximise progress, for the benefit of high-fliers and slower learners alike. The focus must be on levelling up, not levelling down.

With Labour, the Department for Education and Employment will become a leading office of state. It will give a strong and consistent lead to help raise standards in every school. Standards, more than structures, are the key to success. Labour will never put dogma before children's education. Our approach will be to intervene where there are problems, not where schools are succeeding.

Labour will never force the abolition of good schools whether in the private or state sector. Any changes in the admissions policies of grammar schools will be decided by local parents. Church schools will retain their distinctive religious ethos.

We wish to build bridges wherever we can across education divides. The educational apartheid created by the public/private divide diminishes the whole education system.

■ Zero tolerance of underperformance

Every school has the capacity to succeed. All Local Education Authorities (LEAs) must demonstrate that every school is improving. For those failing schools unable to improve, ministers will order a "fresh start" —close the school and start afresh on the same site. Where good schools and bad schools co-exist side by side we will authorise LEAs to allow one school to take over the other to set the underperforming school on a new path.

■ Quality nursery education guaranteed for all four year-olds

Nursery vouchers have been proven not to work. They are costly and do not generate more quality nursery places. We will use the money saved by scrapping nursery vouchers to guarantee places for four year-olds. We will invite selected local authorities to pilot early excellence centres combining education and care for the under-fives. We will set targets for universal provision for three year-olds whose parents want it.

■ New focus on standards in primary schools

Primary schools are the key to mastering the basics and developing in every child an eagerness to learn.

Every school needs baseline assessment of pupils when they enter the school, and a year-on-year target for improvement.

We will reduce class sizes for five, six and seven year-olds to 30 or under, by phasing out the assisted places scheme, the cost of which is set to rise to £180 million per year.

We must recognise the three 'r's for what they are — building blocks of all learning that must be taught better. We will achieve this by improving the skills of the teaching force; ensuring a stronger focus on literacy in the curriculum; and piloting literacy summer schools to meet our new target that within a decade every child leaves primary school with a reading age of at least 11 (barely half do today).

Our numeracy taskforce will develop equally ambitious targets. We will encourage use of the most effective teaching methods, including phonics for reading and whole class interactive teaching for maths.

■ Attacking educational disadvantage

No matter where a school is, Labour will not tolerate under-achievement.

Public/private partnerships will improve the condition of school buildings. There will be education action zones to attack low standards by recruiting the best teachers and head teachers to under-achieving schools; by supporting voluntary mentoring schemes to provide one-to-one support for disadvantaged pupils; and by creating new opportunities for children, after the age of 14, to enhance their studies by acquiring knowledge and experience within industry and commerce.

To attack under-achievement in urban areas, we have developed a new scheme with the Premier League. In partnerships between central government, local government and football clubs, study support centres will be set up at Premier League grounds for the benefit of local children. The scheme will be launched on a pilot basis during the 1997/8 season.

We support the greatest possible integration into mainstream education of pupils with special educational needs, while recognising that specialist facilities are essential to meet particular needs.

■ Realising the potential of new technology

Labour is the pioneer of new thinking. We have agreed with British Telecom and the cable companies that they will wire up schools, libraries, colleges and hospitals to the information superhighway free of charge. We have also secured agreement to make access charges as low as possible.

For the Internet we plan a National Grid for Learning, franchised as a public/private partnership, which will bring to teachers up-to-date materials to enhance their skills, and to children high-quality educational materials. We will use lottery money to improve the skills of existing teachers in information technology.

In opposition, Labour set up the independent Stevenson Commission to promote access for children to new technology. Its recent report is a challenging programme for the future. We are urgently examining how to implement its plans, in particular the development of educational software through a grading system which will provide schools with guarantees of product quality; and the provision for every child of an individual e-mail address. An independent standing committee will continue to advise us on the implementation of our plans in government.

■ The role of parents

We will increase the powers and responsibilities of parents.

There will be more parent governors and, for the first time, parent representatives on LEAs.

A major objective is to promote a culture of responsibility for learning within the family, through contracts between all schools and parents, defining the responsibilities of each. National guidelines will establish minimum periods for homework for primary and secondary school pupils.

Teachers will be entitled to positive support from parents to promote good attendance and sound discipline. Schools suffer from unruly and disruptive pupils. Exclusion or suspension may sometimes be necessary. We will, however, pilot new pupil referral units so that schools are protected but these pupils are not lost to education or the country.

■ New job description for LEAs

The judge and jury of LEA performance will be their contribution to raising standards.

LEAs are closer to schools than central government, and have the authority of being locally elected. But they will be required to devolve power, and more of their budgets, to heads and governors. LEA performance will be inspected by Ofsted and the Audit Commission. Where authorities are failing, the Secretary of State may suspend the relevant powers of the LEA and send in an improvement team.

■ Grant maintained schools

Schools that are now grant maintained will prosper with Labour's proposals, as will every school.

Tory claims that Labour will close these schools are false. The system of funding will not discriminate unfairly either between schools or between pupils. LEAs will be represented on governing bodies, but will not control them. We support guidelines for open and fair admissions, along the lines of those introduced in 1993; but we will also provide a right of appeal to an independent panel in disputed cases.

■ Teachers: pressure and support

Schools are critically dependent on the quality of all staff. The majority of teachers are skilful and dedicated, but some fall short. We will improve teacher training, and ensure that all teachers have an induction year when they first qualify, to ensure their suitability for teaching.

There will be a general teaching council to speak for and raise standards in the profession. We will create a new grade of teachers to recognise the best. There will, however, be speedy, but fair, procedures to remove teachers who cannot do the job.

The strength of a school is critically dependent on the quality of its head. We will establish mandatory qualifications for the post. A head teacher will be appointed to a position only when fully trained to accept the responsibility.

■ Higher education

The improvement and expansion needed cannot be funded out of general taxation. Our proposals for funding have been made to the Dearing Committee, in line with successful policies abroad.

The costs of student maintenance should be repaid by graduates on an income-related basis, from the career success to which higher education has contributed. The current system is badly administered and payback periods are too short. We will provide efficient administration, with fairness ensured by longer payback periods where required.

■ Lifelong learning

We must learn throughout life, to retain employment through new and improved skills. We will promote adult learning both at work and in the critical sector of further education.

In schools and colleges, we support broader A-levels and upgraded vocational qualifications, underpinned by rigorous standards and key skills.

Employers have the primary responsibility for training their workforces in job-related skills. But individuals should be given the power to invest in training. We will invest public money for training in Individual Learning Accounts which individuals —for example women returning to the labour force — can then use to gain the skills they want. We will kickstart the programme for up to a million people, using £150 million of TEC money which could be better used and which would provide a contribution of £150, alongside individuals making small investments. Employers will be encouraged to make voluntary contributions. We will also promote the extension of the Investors in People initiative into many more small firms.

Our new University for Industry, collaborating with the Open University, will bring new opportunities to adults seeking to develop their potential. This will bring government, industry and education together to create a new resource whose remit will be to use new technology to enhance skills and education. The University for Industry will be a public/private partnership, commissioning software and developing the links to extend lifelong learning.

■ Government spending on education

The Conservatives have cut spending on education as a share of national income by the equivalent of more than £3 billion as spending on the bills of economic and social failure has risen. We are committed to reversing this trend of spending. Over the course of a five-year Parliament, as we cut the costs of economic and social failure, we will raise the income spent on education.

We will promote personal prosperity for all.

☐ Economic stability to promote investment
☐ Tough inflation target, mortgage rates as low as possible
☐ Stick for two years within existing spending limits
☐ Five-year pledge: no increase in income tax rates
☐ Long-term objective of 10p starting rate tax
☐ Early Budget to get people off welfare and into work

PROSPERITY

THE Conservatives have in 18 years created the two longest, deepest recessions this century. We have experienced the slowest average growth rate of any similar period since the Second World War. There has been a fundamental failure to tackle the underlying causes of inflation, of low growth and of unemployment. These are:

☐ too much economic instability, with wild swings from boom to bust

☐ too little investment in education and skills, and in the application of new technologies

☐ too few opportunities to find jobs, start new businesses or become self-employed

☐ too narrow an industrial base

☐ and too little sense of common purpose in the workplace or across the nation.

Britain can do better. We must build on the British qualities of inventiveness, creativity and adaptability. New Labour's objective is to improve living standards for the many, not just the few. Business can and must succeed in raising productivity. This requires a combination of a skilled and educated workforce with investment in the latest technological innovations, as the route to higher wages and employment.

An explicit objective of a Labour government will be to raise the trend rate of growth by strengthening our wealth-creating base. We will nurture investment in industry, skills, infrastructure and new technologies. And we will attack long-term unemployment, especially among young people. Our goal will be educational and employment opportunities for all. Economic stability is the essential platform for sustained growth. In a global economy the route to growth is stability not inflation. The priority must be stable, low-inflation conditions for long-term growth. The root causes of inflation and low growth are the same an economic and industrial base that remains weak. Government cannot solve all economic problems or end the economic cycle. But by spending wisely and taxing fairly, government can help tackle the problems. Our goals are low inflation, rising living standards and high and stable levels of employment.

■ Spending and tax: new Labour's approach

The myth that the solution to every problem is increased spending has been comprehensively dispelled under the Conservatives. Spending has risen. But more spending has brought neither greater fairness nor less poverty. Quite the reverse our society is more divided than it has been for generations. The level of public spending is no longer the best measure of the effectiveness of government action in the public interest. It is what money is actually spent on that counts more than how much money is spent.

The national debt has doubled under John Major. The public finances remain weak. A new Labour government will give immediate high priority to seeing how public money can be better used.

New Labour will be wise spenders, not big spenders. We will work in partnership with the private sector to achieve our goals. We will ask about public spending the first question that a manager in any company would ask can existing resources be used more effectively to meet our priorities? And because efficiency and value for money are central, ministers will be required to save before they spend.

Save to invest is our approach, not tax and spend.

The increase in taxes under the Conservatives is the most dramatic evidence of economic failure. Since 1992 the typical family has paid more than £2,000 in extra taxes — the biggest tax hike in peacetime history, breaking every promise made by John Major at the last election. The tragedy is that those hardest hit are least able to pay. That is why we strongly opposed the imposition of VAT on fuel: it was Labour that stopped the government from increasing VAT on fuel to 17.5 per cent.

Taxation is not neutral in the way it raises revenue. How and what governments tax sends clear signals about the economic activities they believe should be encouraged or discouraged, and the values they wish to entrench in society. Just as, for example, work should be encouraged through the tax system, environmental pollution should be discouraged.

New Labour will establish a new trust on tax with the British people. The promises we make we will keep. The principles that will underpin our tax policy are clear:

☐ to encourage employment opportunities and work incentives for all

☐ to promote savings and investment

☐ and to be fair and be seen to be fair.

New Labour is not about high taxes on ordinary families. It is about social justice and a fair deal.

New Labour therefore makes the following economic pledges.

■ Fair taxes

There will be no return to the penal tax rates that existed under both Labour and Conservative governments in the 1970s.

To encourage work and reward effort, we are pledged not to raise the basic or top rates of income tax throughout the next Parliament.

Our long-term objective is a lower starting rate of income tax of ten pence in the pound. Reducing the high marginal rates at the bottom end of the earning scale often 70 or 80 per cent is not only fair but desirable to encourage employment.

This goal will benefit the many, not the few. It is in sharp contrast to the Tory goal of abolishing capital gains and inheritance tax, at least half the benefit of which will go to the richest 5,000 families in the country.

We will cut VAT on fuel to 5 per cent, the lowest level allowed.

We renew our pledge not to extend VAT to food, children's clothes, books and newspapers and public transport fares.

We will also examine the interaction of the tax and benefits systems so that they can be streamlined and modernised, so as to fulfil our objectives of promoting work incentives, reducing poverty and welfare dependency, and strengthening community and family life.

■ No risks with inflation

We will match the current target for low and stable inflation of 2.5 per cent or less. We will reform the Bank of England to ensure that decision-making on monetary policy is more effective, open, accountable and free from short-term political manipulation.

■ Strict rules for government borrowing

We will enforce the golden rule of public spending over the economic cycle, we will only borrow to invest and not to fund current expenditure.

We will ensure that — over the economic cycle — public debt as a proportion of national income is at a stable and prudent level.

■ Stick to planned public spending allocations for the first two years of office

Our decisions have not been taken lightly. They are a recognition of Conservative mismanagement of the public finances. For the next two years Labour will work within the departmental ceilings for spending already announced. We will resist unreasonable demands on the public purse, including any unreasonable public sector pay demands.

■ Switch spending from economic failure to investment

We will conduct a spending review and departmental reviews to assess how to use resources better, while rooting out waste and inefficiency in public spending. Labour priorities in public spending are different from Tory priorities.

■ Tax reform to promote saving and investment

We will introduce a new individual savings account and extend the principle of TESSAs and PEPs to promote long-term saving. We will review the corporate and capital gains tax regimes to see how the tax system can promote greater long-term investment.

■ Welfare-to-work Budget

We will introduce a Budget within two months after the election to begin the task of equipping the British economy and reforming the welfare state to get young people and the long-term unemployed back to work. This welfare-to-work programme will be funded by a windfall levy on the excess profits of the privatised utilities, introduced in this Budget after we have consulted the regulators.

We will help create successful and profitable businesses

☐ Backing business: skills, infrastructure, new markets
☐ Gains for consumers with tough competition law
☐ New measures to help small businesses
☐ National minimum wage to tackle low pay
☐ Boost local economic growth with Regional Development Agencies
☐ A strong and effective voice in Europe

BUSINESS

NEW Labour offers business a new deal for the future. We will leave intact the main changes of the 1980s in industrial relations and enterprise. We see healthy profits as an essential motor of a dynamic market economy, and believe they depend on quality products, innovative entrepreneurs and skilled employees. We will build a new partnership with business to improve the competitiveness of industry for the 21st century, leading to faster growth.

Many of the fundamentals of the British economy are still weak. Low pay and low skills go together: insecurity is the consequence of economic instability; the absence of quality jobs is a product of the weakness of our industrial base; we suffer from both high unemployment and skills shortages. There is no future for Britain as a low-wage economy: we cannot compete on wages with countries paying a tenth of British wages.

We need to win on higher quality, skill, innovation and reliability. With Labour, British and inward investors will find this country an attractive and profitable place to do business.

New Labour believes in a flexible labour market that serves employers and employees alike. But flexibility alone is not enough. We need flexibility plus:

☐ plus higher skills and higher standards in our schools and colleges

☐ plus policies to ensure economic stability

☐ plus partnership with business to raise investment in infrastructure, science and research and to back small firms

☐ plus new leadership from Britain to reform Europe, in place of the current policy of drift and disengagement from our largest market

☐ plus guaranteeing Britain's membership of the single market — indeed, opening up markets inside and outside the EU — helping make Britain an attractive place to do business

☐ plus minimum standards of fair treatment, including a national minimum wage

☐ plus an imaginative welfare-to-work programme to put long-term unemployed back to work and to cut social security costs.

■ A reformed and tougher competition law

Competitiveness abroad must begin with competition at home. Effective competition can bring value and quality to consumers. As an early priority we will reform Britain's competition law. We will adopt a tough prohibitive approach to deter anti-competitive practices.

In the utility industries we will promote competition wherever possible. Where competition is not an effective discipline, for example in the water industry which has a poor environmental record and has in most cases been a tax-free zone, we will pursue tough, efficient regulation in the interests of customers, and, in the case of water, in the interests of the environment as well. We recognise the need for open and predictable regulation which is fair both to consumers and to shareholders and at the same time provides incentives for managers to innovate and improve efficiency.

■ Reinvigorate the Private Finance Initiative

The country's infrastructure is dangerously run down: parts of our road and rail network are seriously neglected, and all too often our urban environment has been allowed to deteriorate.

Labour pioneered the idea of public/private partnerships. It is Labour local authorities which have done most to create these partnerships at local level. A Labour government will overcome the problems that have plagued the PFI at a national level. We will set priorities between projects, saving time and expense; we will seek a realistic allocation of risk between the partners to a project; and we will ensure that best practice is spread throughout government. We will aim to simplify and speed up the planning process for major infrastructure projects of vital national interest.

We will ensure that self-financing commercial organisations within the public sector — the Post Office is a prime example — are given greater commercial freedom to make the most of new opportunities.

■ Backing small business

The number of small employers has declined by half a million since 1990. Support for small businesses will have a major role in our plans for economic growth. We will cut unnecessary red tape; provide for statutory interest on late payment of debts; improve support for high-tech start-ups; improve the quality and relevance of advice and training through a reformed Business Links network and the University for Industry; and assist firms to enter overseas markets more effectively.

■ Local economic growth

Prosperity needs to be built from the bottom up. We will establish one-stop regional development agencies to co-ordinate regional economic development, help small business and encourage inward investment. Many regions are taking informal steps to this end and they will be supported.

■ Strengthen our capability in science, technology and design

The UK must be positively committed to the global pursuit of new knowledge, with a strong science base in our universities and centres of excellence leading the world. The Dearing Committee represents a significant opportunity to promote high-quality standards in science teaching and research throughout UK higher education. We support a collaborative approach between researchers and business, spreading the use of new technology and good design, and exploiting our own inventions to boost business in the UK.

■ Promoting new green technologies and businesses

There is huge potential to develop Britain's environmental technology industries to create jobs, win exports and protect the environment.

Effective environmental management is an increasingly important component of modern business practice. We support a major push to promote energy conservation particularly by the promotion of home energy efficiency schemes, linked to our environment taskforce for the under-25s. We are committed to an energy policy designed to promote cleaner, more efficient energy use and production, including a new and strong drive to develop renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy, and combined heat and power. We see no economic case for the building of any new nuclear power stations.

■ Key elements of the 1980s trade union reforms to stay

There must be minimum standards for the individual at work, including a minimum wage, within a flexible labour market. We need a sensible balance in industrial relations law — rights and duties go together.

The key elements of the trade union legislation of the 1980s will stay — on ballots, picketing and industrial action. People should be free to join or not to join a union. Where they do decide to join, and where a majority of the relevant workforce vote in a ballot for the union to represent them, the union should be recognised. This promotes stable industrial relations. There will be full consultation on the most effective means of implementing this proposal.

■ Partnership at work

The best companies recognise their employees as partners in the enterprise. Employees whose conditions are good are more committed to their companies and are more productive. Many unions and employers are embracing partnership in place of conflict. Government should welcome this.

We are keen to encourage a variety of forms of partnership and enterprise, spreading ownership and encouraging more employees to become owners through Employee Share Ownership Plans. We support too the Social Chapter of the EU, but will deploy our influence in Europe to ensure that it develops so as to promote employability and competitiveness, not inflexibility.

■ A sensibly set national minimum wage

There should be a statutory level beneath which pay should not fall — with the minimum wage decided not on the basis of a rigid formula but according to the economic circumstances of the time and with the advice of an independent low pay commission, whose membership will include representatives of employers, including small business, and employees.

Every modern industrial country has a minimum wage, including the US and Japan. Britain used to have minimum wages through the Wages Councils. Introduced sensibly, the minimum wage will remove the worst excesses of low pay (and be of particular benefit to women), while cutting some of the massive £4 billion benefits bill by which the taxpayer subsidises companies that pay very low wages.

Continued on next page

■ NHS for the future ■ Tough on crime ■ Dignity in retirement ■ Improve the Underground

We will get the unemployed from welfare to work

☐ Stop the growth of an underclassin Britain
☐ 250,000 young unemployed off benefit and into work
☐ Tax cuts for employers who create new jobs for the long-term unemployed
☐ Effective help for lone parents

EMPLOYMENT

There are over one million fewer jobs in Britain than in 1990. One in five families has no one working. One million single mothers are trapped on benefits. There is a wider gap between rich and poor than for generations.

We are determined not to continue down the road of a permanent have-not class, unemployed and disaffected from society. Our long-term objective is high and stable levels of employment. This is the true meaning of a stakeholder economy where everyone has a stake in society and owes responsibilities to it.

The best way to tackle poverty is to help people into jobs real jobs. The unemployed have a responsibility to take up the opportunity of training places or work, but these must be real opportunities. The governments workfare proposals with a success rate of one in ten fail this test.

Labours welfare-to-work programme will attack unemployment and break the spiral of escalating spending on social security. A one-off windfall levy on the excess profits of the privatised utilities will fund our ambitious programme.

■ Every young person unemployed for more than six months in a job or training

We will give 250,000 under-25s opportunities for work, education and training. Four options will be on offer, each involving day-release education or training leading to a qualification:

☐ private-sector job: employers will be offered a £60-a-week rebate for six months

☐ work with a non-profit voluntary sector employer, paying a weekly wage, equivalent to benefit plus a fixed sum for six months

☐ full-time study for young people without qualifications on an approved course

☐ a job with the environment taskforce, linked to Labours citizens service programme.

Rights and responsibilities must go hand in hand, without a fifth option of life on full benefit.

■ Every 16 and 17 year-old on the road to a proper qualification by the year 2000

Nearly a third of young people do not achieve an NVQ level two qualification by age 19. All young people will be offered part-time or full-time education after the age of 16. Any under-18 year-old in a job will have the right to study on an approved course for qualifications at college. We will replace the failed Youth Training scheme with our new Target 2000 programme, offering young people high-quality education and training.

■ Action on long-term unemployment

New partnerships between government and business, fully involving local authorities and the voluntary sector, will attack long-term joblessness. We will encourage employers to take on those who have suffered unemployment for more than two years with a £75-a-week tax rebate paid for six months, financed by the windfall levy. Our programme for the phased release of past receipts from council house sales will provide new jobs in the construction industry.

■ Lone parents into work

Today the main connection between unemployed lone parents and the state is their benefits. Most lone parents want to work, but are given no help to find it. New Labour has a positive policy. Once the youngest child is in the second term of full-time school, lone parents will be offered advice by a proactive Employment Service to develop a package of job search, training and after-school care to help them off benefit.

■ Customised, personalised services

We favour initiatives with new combinations of available benefits to suit individual circumstances. In new and innovative Employment Zones, personal job accounts will combine money currently available for benefits and training, to offer the unemployed new options leading to work and independence. We will co-ordinate benefits, employment and career services, and utilise new technology to improve their quality and efficiency.

■ Fraud

Just as we owe it to the taxpayer to crack down on tax avoidance, so we must crack down on dishonesty in the benefit system. We will start with a clampdown on Housing Benefit fraud, estimated to cost £2 billion a year, and will maintain action against benefit fraud of all kinds.

We will save the NHS

☐ 100,000 people off waiting lists
☐ End the Tory internal market
☐ End waiting for cancer surgery
☐ Tough quality targets for hospitals
☐ Independent food standards agency
☐ New public health drive
☐ Raise spending in real terms every year and spend the money on patients not bureaucracy

HEALTH SERVICE

LABOUR created the NHS 50 years ago. It is under threat from the Conservatives. We want to save and modernise the NHS.

But if the Conservatives are elected again there may well not be an NHS in five years'time — neither national nor comprehensive. Labour commits itself anew to the historic principle: that if you are ill or injured there will be a National Health Service there to help; and access to it will be based on need and need alone — not on your ability to pay, or on who your GP happens to be or on where you live.

In 1990 the Conservatives imposed on the NHS a complex internal market of hospitals competing to win contracts from health authorities and fundholding GPs. The result is an NHS strangled by costly red tape, with every individual transaction the subject of a separate invoice. After six years, bureaucracy swallows an extra £1.5 billion per year: there are 20,000 more managers and 50,000 fewer nurses on the wards; and more than one million people are on waiting lists. The Government has consistently failed to meet even its own health targets.

There can be no return to top-down management, but Labour will end the Conservatives' internal market in healthcare. The planning and provision of care are necessary and distinct functions, and will remain so. But under the Tories, the administrative costs of purchasing care have undermined provision and the market system has distorted clinical priorities. Labour will cut costs by removing the bureaucratic processes of the internal market.

The savings achieved will go on direct care for patients. As a start, the first £100 million saved will treat an extra 100,000 patients. We will end waiting for cancer surgery, thereby helping thousands of women waiting for breast cancer treatment.

■ Primary care will play a lead role

In recent years, GPs have gained power on behalf of their patients in a changed relationship with consultants, and we support this. But the development of GP fundholding has also brought disadvantages. Decision-making has been fragmented. Administrative costs have grown. And a two-tier service has resulted.

Labour will retain the lead role for primary care but remove the disadvantages that have come from the present system. GPs and nurses will take the lead in combining together locally to plan local health services more efficiently for all the patients in their area. This will enable all GPs in an area to bring their combined strength to bear upon individual hospitals to secure higher standards of patient provision. In making this change, we will build on the existing collaborative schemes which already serve 14 million people.

The current system of year-on-year contracts is costly and unstable. We will introduce three- to five-year agreements between the local primary care teams and hospitals. Hospitals will then be better able to plan work at full capacity and co-operate to enhance patient services.

■ Higher-quality services for patients

Hospitals will retain their autonomy over day-to-day administrative functions, but, as part of the NHS, they will be required to meet high-quality standards in the provision of care. Management will be held to account for performance levels. Boards will become more representative of the local communities they serve.

A new patients' charter will concentrate on the quality and success of treatment. The Tories so-called Efficiency Index counts the number of patient episodes, not the quality or success of treatment. With Labour, the measure will be quality of outcome, itself an incentive for effectiveness. As part of our concern to ensure quality, we will work towards the elimination of mixed-sex wards.

Health authorities will become the guardians of high standards. They will monitor services, spread best practice and ensure rising standards of care.

The Tory attempt to use private money to build hospitals has failed to deliver. Labour will overcome the problems that have plagued the Private Finance Initiative, end the delays, sort out the confusion and develop new forms of public/private partnership that work better and protect the interests of the NHS. Labour is opposed to the privatisation of clinical services which is being actively promoted by the Conservatives.

Labour will promote new developments in telemedicine — bringing expert advice from regional centres of excellence to neighbourhood level using new technology.

■ Good health

A new minister for public health will attack the root causes of ill health, and so improve lives and save the NHS money. Labour will set new goals for improving the overall health of the nation which recognise the impact that poverty, poor housing, unemployment and a polluted environment have on health.

Smoking is the greatest single cause of preventable illness and premature death in the UK. We will therefore ban tobacco advertising.

Labour will establish an independent food standards agency. The £3.5 billion BSE crisis and the E.coli outbreak which resulted in serious loss of life, have made unanswerable the case for the independent agency we have proposed.

■ NHS spending

The Conservatives have wasted spending on the NHS. We will do better. We will raise spending on the NHS in real terms every year and put the money towards patient care. And a greater proportion of every pound spent will go on patient care not bureaucracy.

■ An NHS for the future

The NHS requires continuity as well as change, or the system cannot cope. There must be pilots to ensure that change works. And there must be flexibility, not rigid prescription, if innovation is to flourish.

Our fundamental purpose is simple but hugely important: to restore the NHS as a public service working co-operatively for patients, not a commercial business driven by competition.

Education is Labour's Number 1 priority — from smaller class sizes to a University for Industry

We will be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime

☐ Fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders
☐ Reform Crown Prosecution Service to convict more criminals
☐ Police on the beat not pushing paper
☐ Crackdown on petty crimes and disorder
☐ Fresh parliamentary vote to ban all handguns

LAW AND ORDER

UNDER the Conservatives, crime has doubled and many more criminals get away with their crimes: the number of people convicted has fallen by a third, with only one crime in 50 leading to a conviction. This is the worst record of any government since the Second World War and for England and Wales the worst record of any major industrialised country. Last year alone violent crime rose 11 per cent.

We propose a new approach to law and order: tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. We insist on individual responsibility for crime, and will attack the causes of crime by our measures to relieve social deprivation.

The police have our strong support. They are in the front line of the fight against crime and disorder. The Conservatives have broken their 1992 general election pledge to provide an extra 1,000 police officers. We will relieve the police of unnecessary bureaucratic burdens to get more officers back on the beat.

■ Youth crime

Youth crime and disorder have risen sharply, but very few young offenders end up in court, and when they do half are let off with another warning. Young offenders account for seven million crimes a year.

Far too often young criminals offend again and again while waiting months for a court hearing. We will halve the time it takes to get persistent young offenders from arrest to sentencing; replace widespread repeat cautions with a single final warning; bring together Youth Offender Teams in every area; and streamline the system of youth courts to make it far more effective.

New parental responsibility orders will make parents face up to their responsibility for their childrens misbehaviour.

■ Conviction and sentencing

The job of the Crown Prosecution Service is to prosecute criminals effectively. There is strong evidence that the CPS is over-centralised, bureaucratic and inefficient, with cases too often dropped, delayed, or downgraded to lesser offences.

Labour will decentralise the CPS, with local crown prosecutors co-operating more effectively with local police forces.

We will implement an effective sentencing system for all the main offences to ensure greater consistency and stricter punishment for serious repeat offenders.

The courts will have to spell out what each sentence really means in practice.

The Court of Appeal will have a duty to lay down sentencing guidelines for all the main offences. The Attorney-General's power to appeal unduly lenient sentences will be extended.

The prison service now faces serious financial problems. We will audit the resources available, take proper ministerial responsibility for the service, and seek to ensure that prison regimes are constructive and require inmates to face up to their offending behaviour.

■ Disorder

The Conservatives have forgotten the order part of law and order. We will tackle the unacceptable level of anti-social behaviour and crime on our streets. Our zero tolerance approach will ensure that petty criminality among young offenders is seriously addressed.

Community safety orders will deal with threatening and disruptive criminal neighbours. Labour has taken the lead in proposing action to tackle the problems of stalking and domestic violence.

Child protection orders will deal with young children suffering neglect by parents because they are left out on their own far too late at night.

ritain is a multiracial and multicultural society. All its members must have the protection of the law. We will create a new offence of racial harassment and a new crime of racially motivated violence to protect ethnic minorities from intimidation.

■ Drugs

The vicious circle of drugs and crime wrecks lives and threatens communities. Labour will appoint an anti-drugs supremo to co-ordinate our battle against drugs across all government departments. The drug czar will be a symbol of our commitment to tackle the modern menace of drugs in our communities.

We will pilot the use of compulsory drug testing and treatment orders for offenders to ensure that the link between drug addiction and crime is broken. This will be paid for by bringing remand delays down to the national targets.

We will attack the drug problem in prisons. In addition to random drug testing of all prisoners we will aim for a voluntary testing unit in every prison for prisoners ready to prove they are drug-free.

■ Victims

Victims of crime are too often neglected by the criminal justice system. We will ensure that victims are kept fully informed of the progress of their case, and why charges may have been downgraded or dropped.

Greater protection will be provided for victims in rape and serious sexual offence trials and for those subject to intimidation, including witnesses.

■ Prevention

We will place a new responsibility on local authorities to develop statutory partnerships to help prevent crime. Local councils will then be required to set targets for the reduction of crime and disorder in their area.

■ Gun control

In the wake of Dunblane and Hungerford, it is clear that only the strictest firearms laws can provide maximum safety. The Conservatives failed to offer the protection required. Labour led the call for an outright ban on all handguns in general civilian use. There will be legislation to allow individual MPs a free vote for a complete ban on handguns.

Labour is the party of law and order.

We will strengthen family life

☐ Help parents balance work and family
☐ Security in housing and help for homeowners
☐ Tackle homelessness using receipts from council house sales
☐ Dignity and security in retirement
☐ Protect the basic state pension and promote secure second pensions

THE FAMILY

WE WILL uphold family life as the most secure means of bringing up our children. Families are the core of our society. They should teach right from wrong. They should be the first defence against antisocial behaviour. The breakdown of family life damages the fabric of our society.

Labour does not see families and the State as rival providers for the needs of our citizens. Families should provide the day-to-day support for children to be brought up in a stable and loving environment. But families cannot flourish unless government plays its distinctive role: in education; where necessary, in caring for the young; in making adequate provision for illness and old age; in supporting good parenting; and in protecting families from lawlessness and abuse of power. Society, through government, must assist families to achieve collectively what no family can achieve alone.

Yet families in Britain today are under strain as never before. The security once offered by the health service has been undermined. Streets are not safe. Housing insecurity grows. One in five non-pensioner families has no one working; and British men work the longest hours in Europe.

The clock should not be turned back. As many women who want to work should be able to do so. More equal relationships between men and women have transformed our lives. Equally, our attitudes to race, sex and sexuality have changed fundamentally. Our task is to combine change and social stability.

■ Work and family

Families without work are without independence. This is why we give so much emphasis to our welfare-to-work policies.

Labour's national childcare strategy will plan provision to match the requirements of the modern labour market and help parents, especially women, to balance family and working life.

There must be a sound balance between support for family life and the protection of business from undue burdens, a balance which some of the most successful businesses already strike. The current Government has shown itself wholly insensitive to the need to help develop family-friendly working practices. While recognising the need for flexibility in implementation and for certain exemptions, we support the right of employees not to be forced to work more than 48 hours a week; to an annual holiday entitlement; and to limited unpaid parental leave. These measures will provide a valuable underpinning to family life.

The rights of part-time workers have been clarified by recent court judgments which we welcome.

We will keep under continuous review all aspects of the tax and benefits systems to ensure that they are supportive of families and children. We are committed to retain universal Child Benefit where it is universal today from birth to age 16 and to uprate it at least in line with prices. We are reviewing educational finance and maintenance for those older than 16 to ensure higher staying-on rates at school and college, and that resources are used to support those in most need. This review will continue in government on the guidelines we have already laid down.

■ Security in housing

Most families want to own their own homes. We will also support efficiently run social and private rented sectors offering quality and choice.

The Conservatives' failure on housing has been twofold. The two thirds of families who own their homes have suffered a massive increase in insecurity over the last decade, with record mortgage arrears, record negative equity and record repossessions. And the Conservatives' lack of a housing strategy has led to the virtual abandonment of social housing, the growth of homelessness, and a failure to address fully leaseholder reform. All these are the Tory legacy.

Labour's housing strategy will address the needs of homeowners and tenants alike.

We will reject the boom and bust policies which caused the collapse of the housing market.

We will work with mortgage providers to encourage greater provision of more flexible mortgages to protect families in a world of increased job insecurity.

Mortgage buyers also require stronger consumer protection, for example by extension of the Financial Services Act, against the sale of disadvantageous mortgage packages.

The problems of gazumping have reappeared. Those who break their bargains should be liable to pay the costs inflicted on others, in particular legal and survey costs. We are consulting on the best way of tackling the problems of gazumping in the interests of responsible home buyers and sellers.

■ The rented housing sector

We support a three-way partnership between the public, private and housing association sectors to promote good social housing. With Labour, capital receipts from the sale of council houses, received but not spent by local councils, will be re-invested in building new houses and rehabilitating old ones. This will be phased to match the capacity of the building industry and to meet the requirements of prudent economic management.

We also support effective schemes to deploy private finance to improve the public housing stock and to introduce greater diversity and choice. Such schemes should only go ahead with the support of the tenants concerned: we oppose the Government's threat to hand over council housing to private landlords without the consent of tenants and with no guarantees on rents or security of tenure.

We value a revived private rented sector. We will provide protection where most needed: for tenants in houses in multiple occupation.

There will be a proper system of licensing by local authorities which will benefit tenants and responsible landlords alike.

We will introduce 'commonhold': a new form of tenure enabling people living in flats to own their homes individually and to own the whole property collectively. We will simplify the current rules restricting the purchase of freeholds by leaseholders.

■ Homelessness

Homelessness has more than doubled under the Conservatives. Today more than 40,000 families in England are in expensive temporary accommodation. The Government, in the face of Labour opposition, has removed the duty on local authorities to find permanent housing for homeless families. We will impose a new duty on local authorities to protect those who are homeless through no fault of their own and are in priority need.

There is no more powerful symbol of Tory neglect in our society today than young people without homes living rough on the streets. Young people emerging from care without any family support are particularly vulnerable. We will attack the problem in two principal ways: the phased release of capital receipts from council house sales will increase the stock of housing for rent; and our welfare-to-work programme will lead the young unemployed into work and financial independence.

■ Older citizens

We value the positive contribution that older people make to our society, through their families, voluntary activities and work. Their skills and experience should be utilised within their communities. That is why, for example, we support the proposal to involve older people as volunteers to help children learn in pre-school and after-school clubs. In work, they should not be discriminated against because of their age.

The provision of adequate pensions in old age is a major challenge for the future. For today's pensioners Conservative policies have created real poverty, growing inequality and widespread insecurity.

The Conservatives would abolish the state-financed basic retirement pension and replace it with a privatised scheme, with a vague promise of a means-tested state guarantee if pensions fall beneath a minimum level. Their proposals mean there will be no savings on welfare spending for half a century; and taxes will have to rise to make provision for new privately funded pensions. Their plans require an additional £312 billion between now and 2040 through increased taxes or borrowing, against the hope of savings later, with no certainty of security in retirement at the end.

We believe that all pensioners should share fairly in the increasing prosperity of the nation. Instead of privatisation, we propose a partnership between public and private provision, and a balance between income sourced from tax and invested savings. The basic state pension will be retained as the foundation of pension provision. It will be increased at least in line with prices. We will examine means of delivering more automatic help to the poorest pensioners, one million of whom do not even receive the Income Support which is their present entitlement.

We will encourage saving for retirement, with proper protection for savings. We will reform the Financial Services Act so that the scandal of pension mis-selling — 600,000 pensions mis-sold and only 7,000 people compensated to date — will not happen again

Too many people in work, particularly those on low and modest incomes and with changing patterns of employment, cannot join good-value second pension schemes. Labour will create a new framework stakeholder pensions to meet this need. We will encourage new partnerships between financial service companies, employers and employees to develop these pension schemes. They will be approved to receive people's savings only if they meet high standards of value for money, flexibility and security.

Labour will promote choice in pension provision. We will support and strengthen the framework for occupational pensions Personal pensions, appropriately regulated, will remain a good option for many. Labour will retain Serps as an option for those who wish to remain within it. We will also seek to develop the administrative structure of Serps so as to create a citizenship pension for those who assume responsibility as carers, as a result lose out on the pension entitlements they would otherwise acquire, and currently end up on means-tested benefits.

We overcame government opposition to pension splitting between women and men on divorce. We will implement this in government.

We aim to provide real security for families through a modern system of community care. As people grow older, their need for care increases. The Conservative approach is to promote private insurance and privatisation of care homes. But private insurance will be inaccessible to most people. And their policy for residential homes is dogmatic and will not work. We believe that local authorities should be free to develop a mix of public and private care.

We recognise the immense amount of care provision undertaken by family members, neighbours and friends. It was a Labour MP who piloted the 1995 Carers Act through Parliament. We will establish a Royal Commission to work out a fair system for funding long-term care for the elderly. We will introduce a long-term care charter defining the standard of services which people are entitled to expect from health, housing and social services. We are committed to an independent inspection and regulation service for residential homes, and domiciliary care.

Everyone is entitled to dignity in retirement. Under the Tories, the earnings link for state pensions has been ended, VAT on fuel has been imposed, Serps has been undermined and community care is in tatters. We will set up a review of the central areas of insecurity for elderly people: all aspects of the basic pension and its value, second pensions including Serps, and community care. The review will ensure that the views of pensioners are heard. Our watchword in developing policy for pensions and long-term care will be to build consensus among all interested parties.

We will help you get more out of life

☐ Every government department a green department
☐ Efficient and clean transport for all
☐ New arts and science talent fund for young people
☐ Reform the lottery
☐ Improve life in rural areas
☐ Back World Cup bid

QUALITY OF LIFE

THE millennium is the time to reaffirm our responsibility to protect and enhance our environment so that the country we hand on to our children and our grandchildren is a better place in which to live. It also provides a natural opportunity to celebrate and improve the contribution made by the arts, culture and sport to our nation. We need a new and dynamic approach to the creative economy. The Department of National Heritage will develop a strategic vision that matches the real power and energy of British arts, media and cultural industries.

■ Protecting the environment

Our generation, and generations yet to come, are dependent on the integrity of the environment. No one can escape unhealthy water, polluted air or adverse climate change. And just as these problems affect us all, so we must act together to tackle them. No responsible government can afford to take risks with the future: the cost is too high. So it is our duty to act now.

The foundation of Labour's environmental approach is that protection of the environment cannot be the sole responsibility of any one department of state. All departments must promote policies to sustain the environment. And Parliament should have an environmental audit committee to ensure high standards across government.

Throughout this manifesto, there are policies designed to combine environmental sustainability with economic and social progress. They extend from commitments at local level to give communities enhanced control over their environments, to initiatives at international level to ensure that all countries are contributing to the protection of the environment.

A sustainable environment requires above all an effective and integrated transport policy at national, regional and local level that will provide genuine choice to meet people's transport needs. That is what we will establish and develop.

■ Railways

The process of rail privatisation is now largely complete. It has made fortunes for a few, but has been a poor deal for the taxpayer. It has fragmented the network and now threatens services. Our task will be to improve the situation as we find it, not as we wish it to be. Our overriding goal must be to win more passengers and freight on to rail. The system must be run in the public interest with higher levels of investment and effective enforcement of train operators' service commitments. There must be convenient connections, through-ticketing and accurate travel information for the benefit of all passengers.

To achieve these aims, we will establish more effective and accountable regulation by the rail regulator: we will ensure that the public subsidy serves the public interest; and we will establish a new rail authority, combining functions currently carried out by the rail franchiser and the Department of Transport, to provide a clear, coherent and strategic programme for the development of the railways so that passenger expectations are met.

The Conservative plan for the wholesale privatisation of London Underground is not the answer. It would be a poor deal for the taxpayer and passenger alike. Yet again, public assets would be sold off at an under-valued rate. Much-needed investment would be delayed. The core public responsibilities of the Underground would be threatened.

Labour plans a new public/private partnership to improve the Underground, safeguard its commitment to the public interest and guarantee value for money to taxpayers and passengers.

■ Road transport

A balanced transport system must cater for all the familiar modes of transport: cars whether owned, leased or shared; taxis; buses; bicycles and motorcycles. All needs must be addressed in transport planning to ensure the best mix of all types of transport, offer quality public transport wherever possible and help to protect the environment.

The key to efficient bus services is proper regulation at local level, with partnerships between local councils and bus operators an essential component. There must be improved provision and enforcement of bus lanes. Better parking facilities for cars must be linked to convenient bus services to town centres.

Road safety is a high priority. Cycling and walking must be made safer, especially around schools.

We remain unpersuaded by the case for heavier, 44-tonne lorries mooted by the Conservatives. Our concern is that they would prove dangerous and damaging to the environment.

Our plans to reduce pollution include working with the automotive industry to develop smart, efficient and clean cars for the future, with substantially reduced emission levels. The review of vehicle excise duty to promote low-emission vehicles will be continued.

We will conduct an overall strategic review of the roads programme against the criteria of accessibility, safety, economy and environmental impact, using public/private partnerships to improve road maintenance and exploiting new technology to improve journey information.

■ Shipping and aviation

The Tory years have seen the near-extinction of Britain's merchant fleet. Labour will work with all concerned in shipping and ports to help develop their economic potential to the full.

The guiding objectives of our aviation strategy will be fair competition, safety and environmental standards. We want

Continued on next page

■ Support for rural economy ■ Host the 2006 World Cup ■ Open government ■ Retain Trident

Continued from previous page

all British carriers to be able to compete fairly in the interests of consumers.

■ Life in our countryside

Labour recognises the special needs of people who live and work in rural areas. The Conservatives do not. Public services and transport services *in rural* areas must not be allowed to deteriorate. The Conservatives have tried to privatise the Post Office. We opposed that, in favour of a public Post Office providing a comprehensive service. Conservative plans would mean higher charges for letters and put rural post offices under threat.

We favour a *moratorium on* large-scale sales of Forestry Commission land. We recognise that the countryside is a great natural asset, a part of our heritage which calls for careful stewardship. This must be balanced, however, with the needs of people who live and work in rural areas.

The total failure of the Conservatives *to manage the BSE crisis effectively and* to secure any raising of the ban on British beef has wreaked havoc on the beef and dairy industries. The cost to the taxpayer so far is £3.5 billion.

Labour aims to reform the Common Agricultural Policy to save money, to support the rural economy and enhance the environment.

Our initiatives *to link all schools to the* information superhighway will ensure that children in rural areas have access to the best educational resources.

Our policies include greater freedom for people to explore our open countryside. We will not, however, permit any abuse of a right to greater access.

We will ensure greater protection for wildlife. We have advocated new measures to promote animal welfare, including a free vote in Parliament on whether hunting with hounds should be banned by legislation.

Angling is Britain's most popular sport. Labour's anglers' charter affirms our long-standing commitment to angling and to the objective of protecting the aquatic environment.

■ Arts and culture

The arts, culture and *sport* are central to the task of recreating the sense of community, identity and civic pride that should define our country. Yet we consistently undervalue the role of the arts and culture in helping to create a civic society — from amateur theatre to our art galleries.

Art, sport and leisure are vital to our *quality of life* and the renewal of our economy. They are significant earners for Britain. They employ hundreds of thousands of people. They bring millions of tourists to Britain every year, who will also be helped by Labour's plans for new quality assurance in hotel accommodation.

We propose to set up a National Endowment for Science and the Arts to sponsor young talent. Nesta will be a national trust — for talent rather than buildings — for the 21st century. Nesta *will be partly funded by the lottery;* and artists who have gained high rewards from their excellence in the arts and wish to support young talent will be encouraged to donate copyright and royalties to Nesta.

■ Sport

A Labour government will take the lead in extending opportunities for participation in sports; and in identifying sporting excellence and supporting it.

School sports must be the foundation. We will bring the government's policy of forcing schools to sell off playing fields to an end. We will provide full backing to the bid to host the 2006 football World Cup in England. A Labour government *will also* work to bring the Olympics and other major international sporting events to Britain.

■ A people's lottery

The lottery has been a financial success. But there has been no overall strategy for the allocation of monies; and no co-ordination among the five distributor bodies about the projects deserving to benefit from lottery funding. For example, the multi-million-pound expen*diture on the Churchill papers caused* national outrage. A Labour government will review the distribution of proceeds from the lottery to ensure that there is the widest possible access to the benefits of lottery revenues throughout the United Kingdom.

Labour has already proposed a new millennium commission to commence *after the closure of the Millennium* Exhibition, to provide direct support for a range of education, environment and public health projects, including those directed at children's play, a project currently excluded from lottery benefit.

Because the lottery is a monopoly intended to serve the public interest, it must be administered efficiently and *economically. When the current contract* runs out, Labour will seek an efficient not-for-profit operator to ensure that the maximum sums go to good causes.

■ Media and broadcasting

Labour aims for a thriving, diverse media industry, combining commercial *success and public service. We will* ensure that the BBC continues to be a flagship for British creativity and public service broadcasting, but we believe that the combination of public and private sectors in competition is a key spur to innovation and high standards. The regulatory framework for media and broadcasting should reflect the realities of a far more open and competitive economy, and enormous technological advance, for example with digital television. Labour will balance sensible *rules,* fair regulation and national and international competition, so maintaining quality and diversity for the benefit of viewers.

■ Citizens' service for a new millennium

An independent and creative voluntary sector, committed to voluntary activity as an expression of citizenship, is central to our vision of a stakeholder society. We are committed to developing plans for a national citizens'service programme, to tap the enthusiasm and commitment of the many young people who want to make voluntary contributions in service *of their communities. The millennium* should harness the imagination of all those people who have so much to offer for the benefit of the community. We do not believe programmes should be imposed from the top down, but on the contrary wish to encourage a broad range of voluntary initiatives devised and developed by people within their own communities.

IAN WALDIE/REUTERS

Tony Blair and Scottish Labour MP George Robertson are greeted by a large crowd in the Stirling constituency yesterday

We will clean up politics

☐ End the hereditary principle in the House of Lords
☐ Reform of party funding to end sleaze
☐ Devolved power in Scotland and Wales
☐ Elected mayors for London and other cities
☐ More independent but accountable local government
☐ Freedom of information and guaranteed human rights

POLITICS

THE Conservatives seem opposed to the very idea of democracy. They support hereditary peers, unaccountable quangos and secretive government. They have debased democracy through their MPs who have taken cash for asking questions in the House of Commons. They are opposed to the development of decentralised government. The party which once opposed universal suffrage and votes for women *now says our constitution* is so perfect that it cannot be improved.

Our system of government is centralised, inefficient and bureaucratic. Our citizens cannot assert their basic rights in our own courts. The Conservatives are afflicted by sleaze and prosper from secret funds from foreign supporters. There is unquestionably a national *crisis of confidence* in our political system, to which Labour will respond in a measured and sensible way.

■ A modern House of Lords

The House of Lords must be reformed. As an initial, self-contained reform, not dependent on further reform in the *future, the right of hereditary peers* to sit and vote in the House of Lords will be ended by statute. This will be the first stage in a process of reform to make the House of Lords more democratic and representative. The legislative powers of the House of Lords will remain unaltered.

The system of appointment of life peers to the House of Lords will be reviewed. Our objective will be to ensure that over time party appointees as life peers more accurately reflect the proportion of votes cast at the previous general election. We *are committed to maintain*ing an independent cross-bench presence of life peers. No one political party should seek a majority in the House of Lords.

A committee of both Houses of Parliament will be appointed to undertake a wide-ranging review of possible further change and then to bring forward proposals for reform.

We have no plans to replace the monarchy.

■ An effective House of Commons

We believe *the* House of Commons is in need of modernisation and we will ask the House to establish a special Select Committee to review its procedures. Prime Minister's Questions will be made more *effective.* Ministerial accountability will be reviewed so as to remove recent abuses. The process for scrutinising European legislation will be overhauled.

The Nolan recommendations will be fully implemented and extended to all public bodies. We will oblige parties to declare the source of all donations above a minimum figure: Labour does this voluntarily and all parties should do so. Foreign funding will be banned. We will ask the Nolan Committee to consider how the funding of political parties should be regulated and reformed.

We are committed to a referendum on the voting system for the House of Commons. An independent commission on voting systems will be appointed early to recommend a proportional alternative to the first-past-the-post system.

At this election, Labour is proud to be making major strides to rectify the under-*representation of women in pub*lic life.

■ Open government

Unnecessary secrecy in government leads to arrogance in government and defective policy decisions. The Scott Report on arms to Iraq revealed Conservative abuses of power. We are pledged to a *Freedom of Information Act,* leading to more open government, and an independent National Statistical Service.

■ Devolution: strengthening the Union

The United Kingdom is a partnership enriched by distinct national identities *and traditions.* Scotland has its own systems of education, law and local government. Wales has its language and cultural traditions. We will *meet* the demand for decentralisation of power to Scotland and Wales, once *established* in referendums.

Subsidiarity is as sound a principle in Britain as it is in Europe. Our proposal is for devolution not federation. A sovereign Westminster Parliament will devolve power to Scotland and Wales. The Union will be strengthened and the threat of separatism removed.

As soon as possible after the election, we will enact legislation to allow the people of Scotland and Wales to vote in separate referendums on our proposals, which will be set out in white papers. These referendums will take *place not* later than the autumn of 1997. A simple majority of those voting in each referendum will be the majority required. Popular endorsement will strengthen the legitimacy of our proposals and speed their passage through Parliament.

For Scotland we propose the creation of a parliament with law-making powers, firmly based on the agreement reached in the Scottish Constitutional Convention, including defined and limited financial powers to vary revenue and elected by an additional member system. *In the Scottish referendum* we will seek separate endorsement of the proposal to create a parliament, and of the proposal to give it defined and limited financial powers to vary revenue. The Scottish parliament will extend democratic control over the responsibilities currently exercised administratively by the Scottish Office. The responsibilities of the UK Parliament will remain unchanged over UK policy, for example economic, defence and foreign policy.

The Welsh assembly will provide democratic control of the existing Welsh Office functions. *It will have secondary* legislative powers and will be specifically empowered to reform and democratise the quango state. It will be elected by an additional member system.

Following majorities in the referendums, we will introduce in the first year of the Parliament legislation on the substantive devolution proposals outlined in our white papers.

■ Good local government

Local decision-making should be less constrained by central government, and also more accountable to local people. We will place on councils a new duty to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area. They should work in partnership with local people, local business and local voluntary organisations. They will have the powers necessary to develop these *partnerships.* To ensure *greater* accountability, a proportion of councillors in each locality will be elected annually. We will encourage democratic innovations in local government, including pilots of the idea of elected mayors with executive powers in cities.

Although crude and universal council tax capping should go, we will retain reserve powers to control excessive council tax rises.

Local business concerns are critical to good local government. There are sound democratic reasons why, in principle, the business rate should be set locally, not nationally. But we will make no change to the present system for determining the business rate without full consultation with business.

The funnelling of government grant to Conservative-controlled Westminster speaks volumes about the unfairness of *the current grant system. Labour is* committed to a fair distribution of government grant.

The basic framework, not every detail, of local service provision must be for central government. Councils should not be forced to put their services out to tender, but will be required to obtain best value. We reject the dogmatic view *that services must* be privatised to be of high quality, but equally we see no reason why a service should be delivered directly if other more efficient means are available. Cost counts but so does quality.

Every council will be required to publish a local performance plan with targets for service improvement, and be expected to achieve them. The Audit Commission will be given additional powers to monitor performance and promote efficiency. On its advice, gov*ernment* will where necessary send in a management team with full powers to remedy failure.

Labour councils have been at the forefront of environmental initiatives under Local Agenda 21, the international framework for local action arising from the 1992 Earth Summit. A Labour government will encourage all local authorities to adopt plans to protect and enhance their local environment.

Local government is at the sharp end of the fight against deprivation. Ten years after the Conservatives promised to improve the inner cities, poverty and social division afflict towns and outer estates alike. A Labour government will join with local government in a concerted attack against the multiple causes of social and economic decline — unemployment, bad housing, crime, poor health and a degraded environment.

■ London

London is the only Western capital without an elected city government. Following a referendum to confirm *popular demand, there will be a new* deal for London, with a strategic authority and a mayor, each directly elected. Both will speak up for the needs of the city and plan its future. They will not duplicate the work of the boroughs, but take responsibility for London-wide issues — economic regeneration, planning, policing, transport and environmental protection. London-wide responsibility for its own government is urgently required. We will make it happen.

■ The regions of England

The Conservatives have created a tier of regional government in England through quangos and government regional offices. Meanwhile local authori*ties have come together to create a more* co-ordinated regional voice. Labour will build on these developments through the establishment of regional chambers to co-ordinate transport, planning, economic development, bids for European funding and land use planning.

Demand for directly elected regional government so varies across England that it would be wrong to impose a uniform system. In time we will introduce legislation to allow the people, region by region, to decide in a referendum whether they want directly elected regional government. Only where clear *popular consent is estab*lished will arrangements be made for elected regional assemblies. This would require a predominantly unitary system of local government, as presently exists in Scotland and Wales, and confirmation by independent auditors that no additional public expenditure overall would be involved. Our plans will not mean adding a new tier of government to the existing English system.

■ Real rights for citizens

Citizens should have statutory rights to enforce their human rights in the UK courts. We will by statute incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law to bring these rights home and allow our people access to them in their national courts. The incorporation of the European Convention will establish a floor, not a ceiling, *for human* rights. *Parliament will* remain free to enhance these rights, for example by a Freedom of Information Act.

We will seek to end unjustifiable discrimination wherever it exists. For example, we support comprehensive, enforceable civil rights for disabled people against discrimination in society or at work, developed in partnership with all interested parties.

Labour will undertake a wide-ranging review both of the reform of the civil *justice system and legal aid. We will* achieve value for money for the taxpayer and the consumer. A community legal service will develop local, regional and national plans for the development of legal aid according to the needs and priorities of regions and areas. The key to success will be to promote a partnership between the voluntary sector, the legal profession and the *Legal Aid* Board.

Every country must have firm control over immigration and Britain is no exception. All applications, *however,* should be dealt with speedily and fairly. There are, rightly, criteria for those who want to enter this country to join husband or wife. We will ensure that these are properly enforced. We will, however, reform the system in current use to remove the arbitrary and unfair results that can follow from the existing "*primary purpose*" rule. There will be a streamlined system of appeals for visitors denied a visa.

The system for dealing with asylum seekers is expensive and slow — there are many undecided cases dating back beyond 1993. We will ensure swift and fair decisions on whether someone can stay or go, control unscrupulous im*migration advisors and crack down on* the fraudulent use of birth certificates.

■ Northern Ireland

Labour's approach to the peace process has been bipartisan. We have supported the recent agreements between the two governments — the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the Downing Street declaration *and the Framework Document. The* Government has tabled proposals which include a new devolved legislative body, as well as cross-border co-operation and continued dialogue between the two governments.

There will be as great a priority attached to seeing that process through with Labour as under the Conservatives, *in co-operation with the Irish Govern*ment and the Northern Ireland parties. We will expect the same bipartisan approach from a Conservative opposition.

We will take effective measures to combat the terrorist threat.

There is now general acceptance that the future of Northern Ireland must be determined by the consent of the people as set out in the Downing Street declaration. Labour recognises that the option of a united Ireland does not command the consent of the Unionist *tradition, nor does the existing status of* Northern Ireland command the consent of the Nationalist tradition. We are therefore committed to reconciliation between the two traditions and to a new political settlement which can command the support of both. Labour will help build trust and confidence among both Nationalist and Unionist traditions in Northern Ireland by acting to guarantee human rights, strengthen confidence in policing, combat discrimination at work and reduce tensions over parades. Labour will also foster economic *progress and competitiveness in North*ern Ireland, so as to reduce unemployment.

We will give Britain leadership in Europe

☐ Referendum on single currency
☐ Lead reform of the EU
☐ Retain Trident: strong defence through NATO
☐ A reformed United Nations
☐ Helping to tackle *global* poverty

EUROPE

BRITAIN, though an island nation with limited natural resources, has for centuries been a leader of nations. But under the Conservatives Britain's influence has waned.

With a new Labour government, Britain will be strong in defence; resolute in standing up for its own interests; an advocate of human rights and democracy the world over; a reliable and powerful ally in the international institutions of which we are a member; and will be a leader in Europe.

Our vision of Europe is of an alliance of independent nations choosing to co-operate to achieve the goals they cannot achieve alone. We oppose a European federal superstate.

There are only three options for Britain in Europe. The first is to come out. The second is to stay in, but on the sidelines. The third is to stay in, but in a leading role.

An increasing number of Conservatives, overtly or covertly, favour the first. But withdrawal would be disastrous for Britain. It would put millions of *jobs at risk. It would dry up inward* investment. It would destroy our clout in international trade negotiations. It would relegate Britain from the premier division of nations.

The second is exactly where we are today under the Conservatives. The BSE fiasco symbolises their failures in Europe.

The third is the path a new Labour government will take. A fresh start in Europe, with the credibility to achieve reform. We have set out a detailed *agenda for reform, leading from the* front during the UK presidency in the first half of 1998:

☐ Rapid completion of the single market: a top priority for the British presidency. We will open up markets to competition; pursue tough action against unfair state aids; and ensure proper enforcement of single market rules. This will strengthen Europe's competitiveness and open up new opportunities for British firms.

☐ High priority for enlargement of the European Union to include the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus, and the institutional reforms necessary to make an enlarged Europe work more efficiently.

☐ *Urgent reform of the Common* Agricultural Policy. It is costly, vulnerable to fraud and not geared to environmental protection. Enlargement and the World Trade talks in 1999 will make reform even more essential. We will seek a thorough overhaul of the Common Fisheries Policy to conserve our fish stocks in the long-term interests *of the UK fishing industry.*

☐ Greater openness and democracy in EU institutions with open voting in the Council of Ministers and more effective scrutiny of the Commission by the European Parliament. We have long supported a proportional voting system for election to the European Parliament.

☐ Retention of the national veto over *key matters of national interest, such as* taxation, defence and security, immigration, decisions over the budget and treaty changes, while considering the extension of Qualified Majority Voting in limited areas where that is in Britain's interests.

☐ Britain to sign the Social Chapter. An empty chair at the negotiating table is disastrous for Britain. *The Social* Chapter is a framework under which legislative measures can be agreed. Only two measures have been agreed consultation for employees of large *Europe-wide companies* and entitlement to unpaid parental leave. Successful companies already work closely with their workforces. The Social Chapter cannot be used to force the harmonisation of social security or tax legislation and it does not cost jobs. We will use our participation to promote employability and flexibility, not high social costs.

■ The single currency

Any decision about Britain joining the single currency must be determined by a *hard-headed* assessment of Britain's economic interests, Only Labour can be trusted to do this: the Tories are riven by faction. But there are formidable obstacles *in the way of Britain being in the* first wave of membership, if European monetary union takes place on January 1, 1999. What is essential for the success of EMU is genuine convergence among the economies that take part, without any fudging of the rules. However, to exclude British membership of EMU forever would be to destroy any influence we have over a process which will affect us whether we are in or out. We must therefore play a full part in the debate to influence it in Britain's interests.

In any event, there are three preconditions which would have to be satisfied before Britain could join during the next Parliament: first, the Cabinet would have to agree; then Parliament; and finally the people would have to say "Yes" in a referendum.

■ Strong defence through Nato

The post-Cold War world faces a range of new security challenges — proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the *growth of ethnic nationalism and ex*tremism, international terrorism, and crime and drug trafficking. A new Labour government will build a strong defence against these threats. Our security will continue to be based on Nato.

Our armed forces are among the most effective in the world. The country takes pride in their professionalism and courage. We will ensure that they remain strong to defend Britain. But the security of Britain is best served in a *secure world, so we should be willing to* contribute to wider international peace and security both through the alliances to which we belong, in particular Nato and the Western European Union, and through other international organisations such as the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Labour will conduct a strategic defence and security review to reassess our essential security interests and defence needs. It will consider how the roles, *missions and capabilities of our armed* forces should be adjusted to meet the new strategic realities. The review we propose will be foreign policy led, first assessing our likely overseas commit*ments and interests* and then establishing how our forces should be deployed to meet them.

■ Arms control

A new Labour government will retain Trident. We will press for multilateral negotiations towards mutual, balanced and verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons. When satisfied with verified progress towards our goal of the global elimination of nuclear weapons, we will ensure that British nuclear weapons are included in multilateral negotiations.

Labour will work for the effective *implementation* of the Chemical Weapons Convention and for a strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention. Labour will ban the import, export, transfer and manufacture of all forms of anti-personnel landmines. We will introduce an immediate moratorium on their use. Labour will not permit the sale of arms to regimes that might use them for internal *repression or international* aggression. We will increase the transparency and accountability of decisions on export licences for arms. And we will support an EU code of conduct governing arms sales.

We support a strong UK defence industry, which is a strategic part of our industrial base as well as our defence *effort. We believe that part of its* expertise can be extended to civilian use through a defence diversification agency.

■ Leadership in the international community

A new Labour government will use Britain's permanent seat on the Security *Council to press for substantial reform* of the United Nations, including an early resolution of its funding crisis, and a more effective role in peacekeeping, conflict prevention, the protection of human rights and safeguarding the global environment.

The Commonwealth provides Britain with a unique network of contacts linked by history, language *and legal* systems. Labour is committed to giving renewed priority to the Commonwealth in our foreign relations. We will seize the opportunity to increase trade and economic co-operation and will also build alliances with our Commonwealth partners to promote reform at the UN and common action on *the* global environment. Britain *has a real opportunity* to provide leadership to the Commonwealth when we host the heads of government meeting in Britain at the *end of 1997.*

■ Promoting economic and social development

Labour will also attach much higher priority to combating global poverty and underdevelopment. According to the World Bank, there are 1.3 billion people in the world who live in absolute *poverty, subsisting on less than $1 (60p)* a day, while 35,000 children die each day from readily preventable diseases.

Labour believes that we have a clear *moral responsibility* to help combat global poverty. In government we will strengthen and restructure the British aid programme and bring development issues back into the mainstream of government decision-making. A Cabinet minister will lead a new department of international development.

We will shift aid resources towards *programmes that help the poorest* people in the poorest countries. We reaffirm the UK's commitment to the 0.7 per cent UN aid target *and in* government Labour will start to reverse the decline in UK aid spending.

We will work for greater consistency between the aid, trade, agriculture and economic reform policies of the EU. We will use our leadership position in the EU to maintain and enhance the position of the poorest countries during the renegotiation of the Lomé *Convention.*

We will support further *measures* to reduce the debt burden borne by the world's poorest countries and to ensure that developing countries are given a fair deal in international trade.

It is our aim to rejoin Unesco. We will consider how this can be done most effectively and will ensure that the cost is met from savings elsewhere.

■ Human rights

Labour wants Britain to be respected in *the world for the integrity with which it* conducts its foreign relations. We will make protection and promotion of human rights a central part of our foreign policy. We will work for the creation of a permanent international criminal court to investigate genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

■ *A new environmental* internationalism

Labour believes that the threats to the global climate should push environmental concerns higher up the international agenda. A Labour government will strengthen co-operation in the European Union on environmental issues, including climate change and ozone depletion. We will lead the fight against global warming, through our target of a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010.

Labour believes the international environment should be safeguarded in negotiations over international trade. We will also work for the successful negotiation of a new protocol on climate change to be completed in Japan in 1997.

■ Leadership, not isolation

There is a sharp division between those *who believe the way to cope with global* change is for nations to retreat into isolationism and protectionism, and those who believe in internationalism and engagement. Labour has traditionally been the party of internationalism. Britain cannot be strong at home if it is weak abroad. The tragedy of the Conservative years has been the *squandering of Britain's* assets and the loss of Britain's influence.

A new Labour government will use those assets to the full to restore Britain's pride and influence as a leading force for good in the world. With effective leadership and clear vision, Britain could once again be at the centre of international decision-making instead *of at its margins.*

FIVE ELECTION PLEDGES

This manifesto contains the detail of our plans. We have promised only what we know we can deliver. Britain deserves better *and the following* five election pledges will be the first steps towards a better Britain. If you would like to help us build that better Britain, join us by calling 0990 300 900.

- **cut class sizes to 30 or under for 5, 6 and 7 year-olds by using money from the assisted places scheme**
- ***fast-track punishment for persistent* young offenders by halving the time from arrest to sentencing**
- **cut NHS waiting lists by treating an extra 100,000 patients as a first step by releasing ³100 *million saved* from NHS red tape**
- **get 250,000 under-25 year-olds off benefit and into work by using money from a windfall levy on the *privatised utilities***
- **no rise in income tax rates, cut VAT on heating to 5 per cent and inflation and interest rates as low as possible**

هكذا من [illegible]

Leave our fine schools alone

Labour must not abolish the grant-maintained system, says

Bob Balchin

SIMON TOWNSLEY

Archbishop Tenison, a beacon of grant-maintained education in a poor area of London, fears teacher redundancies under Labour

About two years ago Tony Blair launched a publication called *Diversity and Excellence*. It set out Labour's plans for dismantling grant-maintained schools, those that by parental ballot have left the control of their local education authorities and govern themselves. The publication's promises have enjoyed amazing longevity as, unlike other Labour policies, they are unchanged. Today's manifesto reveals no modification in Labour's intent to abolish these fine schools.

There are no such frightening words as *abolition*, of course, in the manifesto's text. In fact, the casual reader could be forgiven for believing that all Labour wants is a bit of cosmetic tidying up. There will be a change of name to "foundation schools", but what is in a name? One or two extra governors will be appointed by local councils but they will be in a minority. All schools are promised direct control over at least 90 per cent of their funding, which seems generous.

David Blunkett has been credited with the claim "that Labour can live with opt-out schools" and Mr Blair, Harriet Harman and other frontbench spokesmen send their offspring to grant-maintained schools, so why should the other million and a quarter parents who use them have anything to fear?

The clue lies in Mr Blunkett's insistence that the name "grant-maintained" should be dropped. This is not just superficial repackaging of a successful Tory reform; it is symbolic of a real wish to destroy it. Grant-maintained schools are just that: maintained by a grant, directly from a government agency. Their funds do not pass through the local authority. For every £100 available for a school, town halls keep back around £10 for "central administration"; grant-maintained schools receive that £10, ie, 100 per cent funding. A recent study shows that they spend only £5 of this replicating council services and thus have 5 per cent extra to spend on school needs. Under Mr Blunkett's plans, this money will be returned to the local authority to fritter away on bureaucracy.

Grant-maintained schools put this cash to excellent use. One fifth of all secondary schools are grant-maintained but last year they accounted for half the top performing comprehensives at GCSE. Most have employed more teachers: a third have increased staffing levels by more than 10 per cent and one in ten by more than 25 per cent. Three quarters of the schools report an increase in teacher morale since opting out and 90 per cent claim an improvement in staff training. Eighty per cent spent more on books, furniture, equipment, maintenance and decoration.

So highly do grant-maintained school heads and governors prize their independence that they sought a meeting with Mr Blunkett in February to try to persuade him that Labour ought not to reroute the grant through councils. His reply was: "It won't be possible."

In practice, the reintroduction of local authority control will lead to severe difficulties for grant-maintained schools. For instance, Archbishop Tenison's School, near the Oval in London, is a beacon of good education. It serves a majority of children from ethnic minorities and the quality of its work has been widely praised. The school has an annual budget of £1.6 million: Labour's proposals could reduce this by £160,000, and, as Brian Jones, the headmaster, says: "As 80 per cent of our funds go on staffing, we would have to reduce personnel. This would result in teacher redundancies and larger classes."

Labour's plans to tamper with grant-maintained governing bodies are also not as harmless as they seem. Heads and governors used to productive meetings fear that the imposition of local political representatives would bring back all the old arguments of the council chamber to school boards, and that valuable governors would resign in frustration. At Archbishop Tenison's, Labour proposals would mean a reduction in the number of church and foundation governors from 11 to three.

"These are the people entrusted with ensuring that the original ethos and religious character of the school are preserved," says Mr Jones. "The dangers of replacing them with minor town hall politicians are all too apparent."

Mr Blunkett's other stated plans for grant-maintained schools — inspection by local authority "advisers" (although they already receive visits from Ofsted), the interference in their admissions by local authority officers, the confiscation of the proceeds of asset sales by local authority treasurers — all show that new Labour is as wedded to municipal socialism as ever.

The soft words of today's manifesto conceal a steely determination by Mr Blair to hand back education to the control of local authorities, to the very people who have failed for decades to raise standards in schools.

● *Sir Bob Balchin is the chairman of the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation.*

Is charity law stifling the student press?

Paul Tyrrell reports on the election restrictions on the campus media

Now that the election is finally under way, the national press will once more begin to confirm their political colours. Not so the majority of Britain's student media, which will have to keep their opinions to themselves until after polling day.

This is because student unions have charitable status and are subject to charity law. This forbids the use of tax-relieved funds for displays of political partiality. National guidelines issued in February explain that "any editorial comment or commentary in favour or against any party or its policies, even in the form of jokes or satire", is prohibited.

'Freedom of speech is what student journalism is all about'

If student journalists wish to discuss the future of the constituency in which their campus is situated, they must offer equal column inches and air time to each local candidate, even if this means accepting contributions from extreme parties or candidates whose platform directly contravenes their unions' policies.

Similarly, if groups such as Labour or Conservative Students are affiliated to their union and wish to hold a conference before polling day, they must do so behind closed doors unless they offer up the floor to representatives of other parties.

Hugh Rogers, spokesman for the Charity Commission, says that a flagrant breach of charity law, such as a partisan headline in a student newspaper on polling day, could lead to a restitution of funds and possibly other sanctions. A student union's charitable status could be jeopardised.

Charity law is designed to protect donors, prevent extreme political groups from using charitable status to gain legitimacy and prevent campaigning with tax-relieved funds. However, a lecturer in law at Newcastle University, commenting in *The Times* last December, said that "the threat of penalties for unlawful political activity will tend to stifle participation in the political arena".

This is the view held by the editors of some of Britain's most distinguished student newspapers, who feel that their freedom of speech through editorial independence is being denied. David Smith, the editor of *Leeds Student*, which was voted last year's top student newspaper, says the restrictions are "a great shame, because freedom of speech is what student journalism is all about".

Michael Mawle, legal adviser to the National Union of Students, stresses that the guidelines are simply a precautionary "clarification" and do not represent any change in charity law in response to unlawful student activity. However, even before the calling of the election they inadvertently caused difficulty for student editorial teams. Jane Marriott, the editor of Durham's independent student newspaper, *Palatinate*, spiked a feature on Tony Blair, under advice from the NUS, because it was due to go to press just before the Wirral-South by-election.

Lee Findell, the NUS vice-president for education, has urged student media to concentrate on "issue-based debate" in order to compare parties fairly and also to support schemes such as "Rock the Vote". However, the law behind the guidelines has discouraged many editors from tackling political issues at a time when students are increasingly being accused of apathy.

APPOINTMENTS

CENTRE FOR COMMERCIAL LAW STUDIES

Postgraduate Scholarships

The Centre for Commercial Law Studies offers up to four Postgraduate Scholarships for the academic year 1997-98. The Centre is constituted as a Department within the Faculty of Laws, and provides postgraduate teaching for the LLM degree of London University. Supervision is also provided for students registered for the London PhD or MPhil degrees by research. The Scholarships are available to students who will be registered at Queen Mary and Westfield College for any of the above qualifications. The value of each scholarship will be determined by the status and qualifications of the person to whom it is awarded, and may be at a level equivalent to the full tuition fee payable for the year and course in question.

The titles of the scholarships are as follows:

1. **The Ilse Schmitthoff Scholarship in International Commercial Law.** This Scholarship is funded by the Clive M Schmitthoff Foundation, established through the generous bequest of Mrs Schmitthoff, and is tenable by a student whose interests lie mainly within the range of subjects associated with the lifetime work of Professor Clive M Schmitthoff.
2. **The Herchel Smith Endowed Scholarship in Intellectual Property Law.** This Scholarship is funded from the substantial endowment provided by Dr Herchel Smith to the Centre's Intellectual Property Law Unit, for the furtherance of study and research in the field of Intellectual Property Law.
3. **The Financial Law Scholarship.** This Scholarship is offered by the International Financial and Tax Law Unit of the Centre, and is available for studies lying within the Unit's sphere of activities.
4. **The Information Technology Law Scholarship.** This scholarship is offered by the Information Technology Law Unit of the Centre, and is available for studies lying within the Unit's sphere of activities.

For further particulars and an application form please contact: Mrs Sandra Baird (tel. 0171 975 5322) quoting Reference T/AP. Completed application forms should be returned to arrive not later than 1 June 1997 to Mrs Sandra Baird, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary and Westfield College, London E1 4NS.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

QUEEN MARY
AND WESTFIELD COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

EDUCATION

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES
EDUCATION
FORTHCOMING FEATURES

LANGUAGE COURSES
Friday 11th April
Sunday 13th April

MBA COURSES
Friday 18th April
Sunday 20th April

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION
Friday 25th April

SUMMER SCHOOLS
Friday 2nd May
Sunday 4th May

MBA SUPPLEMENT
Friday 9th May

For further information about these features or to advertise please contact the Education Team on:
Tel: 0171 680 6800
Fax: 0171 782 7899

COURSES

MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL

THROUGH A SERIES OF QUALIFICATIONS DESIGNED TO TAKE YOU THROUGH EACH STAGE OF YOUR MANAGEMENT CAREER

The Open College in conjunction with the University of Oxford Delegacy for Local Examinations are offering qualifications for people who want to climb up the corporate ladder:

- Certificate in Team Leadership
- Certificate in First Level Management
- Postgraduate Certificate in Management
- Postgraduate Diploma in Management.

Choose the course that is best for you.
These business-focused qualifications are delivered by distance learning, with support also available via the internet. Call Sarah McKema on 0161 434 0007 or write to:

The Open College Limited
Freepost MR7262
Manchester
M20 0PT
email: mckemans@opencollege.co.uk

A/DL/TT497

LANGUAGE COURSES

Where better to learn French...
French courses in France
Teenagers - Adults
Call Annabelle on 0171 734 7224
We are a Charity fully recognized by the French Government
...than in France?

POSTS

COMMODITY GROUP MANAGER

Up to £24k + benefits

The London Universities Purchasing Consortium has an urgent need for an effective and business oriented purchasing professional, to join its small team (initially on a one year fixed-term basis) and take active and immediate responsibility for the development of supply agreements on behalf of this important public sector organisation.

The postholder will report to the LUPC Director.

This is a challenging, high profile and generalist role, requiring a customer-focused self-starter, motivated by results and committed to the highest standards of personal performance and service delivery; the individual appointed will be expected to make an immediate and positive contribution!

Applications, by CV and covering letter, should be forwarded as soon as possible to the following address: Personnel Officer, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. Please quote REF: LUPC/CGM(F-T). This post has been advertised elsewhere in the recent past and previous applicants need not re-apply.

Pursuing equal opportunities and excellence in education

LONDON UNIVERSITIES PURCHASING CONSORTIUM

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

BOX No:- ......

c/o TIMES NEWSPAPERS
P.O. BOX 3553,
VIRGINIA ST,
LONDON, E1 9GA

RESEARCH

Japan Foundation Endowment Committee

RESEARCH GRANTS

The annual income from a donation made by the Japan Foundation is available for disbursement by a Committee established under the auspices of the former UGC, specifically for the promotion of Japanese Studies in UK Higher Education. Applications are now invited for small grants in support of relevant academic research.

All research projects must be intrinsically related to the academic subject of Japanese Studies, and awards are tenable only in degree-awarding institutions in the UK. Applicants must be members of staff in such institutions: applications may not be made directly by students, and coursework cannot be funded.

It should be noted that research grants are unlikely to exceed £5,000, and that most will be substantially smaller. Studentship applications are not being invited on this occasion.

Further particulars and application forms mat be obtained from the Executive Secretary, Japan Foundation Endowment Committee, c/o The University of Sheffield, Frith Court, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2TN, by whom completed forms must be received by Friday 25 April 1997 at the latest. Tel: 0114-222 1206; Fax: 0114-276 8496; E-mail: jfec@sheffield.ac.uk

POSTS

TEACHERS
SHARE OUR BELIEFS

Applications are invited from experienced GCSE/A Level teachers across all academic disciplines who wish to extend their skills into multi-sensory learning.

Short listed applicants will be expected to attend several training workshops as part of the selection process for September 1997. Consideration will also be given to recent graduates interested in teaching as a career.

For further details please send a C.V. to:
The Principal,
Lansdowne Independent
Sixth Form College,
40-44 Bark Place, London W2 4AT.

LANSDOWNE
COLLEGE

HAILEYBURY

FEAR GOD HONOUR THE KING

APPOINTMENT OF BURSAR

The Council of Haileybury and Imperial Service College invites applications for the post of Bursar and Secretary to the Governors following the retirement of the present Bursar. The appointment will begin on 1 January 1998 or earlier by agreement.

Basic salary by negotiation - circa £45,000.

Contributory pension scheme, car allowance, the possibility of accomodation, school fees remission and other benefits.

Further particulars available from:
A de R Davis M.A.
Secretary to the Governors
Haileybury
Hertford, SG13 7NU

to whom applications should be sent not later than 21 April 1997.

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

University of Durham

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND WARDEN

The University of Durham invites applications for the post of Vice-Chancellor and Warden to succeed Professor E A V Ebsworth who is to retire in 1998.

Interested individuals are invited to obtain full written particulars from the University's appointed Consultants, Saxton Bampfylde International plc by telephoning 0181 466 4126 (24 hours) **not later than 17 April 1997** quoting reference GDMB.

The closing date for applications will be Thursday 24 April 1997.

ARC
ADVERTISED RECRUITMENT AND CONSULTANCY
A PRACTICE WITHIN SAXTON BAMPFYLDE INTERNATIONAL PLC

EASTER REVISION

LEARN FRENCH FAST

2-4 wks Summer Courses
Sorbonne University-Paris, Nantes, Poitiers, Toulouse & Côte D'Azur

French 'A'Level revision
Under 18's International Summer programme
Bergerac & Biarritz

Challenge Educational Services
Tel: 01273 220261

COURSES

"HOW WILL I MAKE THE GRADE...?"

Whatever your exam results, we can help you make the right decisions for the future – re-takes, courses, university or college selection or career moves. For the best results, call now for our brochure.

0171-935 5452
LONDON & MANCHESTER

CAREER ANALYSTS LTD
90 Gloucester Place
London W1

LAURIE SPARHAM/FILM FOUR DISTRIBUTORS

Can your school match this filmscript? Colin Firth and Ruth Gemmell star in *Fever Pitch*, the story of a schoolteacher who is crazy about Arsenal Football Club

A first-class act to follow

Daniel Rosenthal reports on an initiative that could produce the next generation of British Oscar winners

If the staff at Film Education have their way, secondary school classrooms will soon echo to the sound of teenage movie moguls "pitching" script ideas and arguing over the best way to promote a blockbuster.

In the wake of *The English Patient*'s nine Oscar triumphs, Film Education, the ten-year-old charity which produces material used by thousands of teachers, is making its own, potentially significant contribution to the British film industry.

With funding from the Cinema Exhibitors' Association and Barclays Bank, it has produced *The Film Industry*: three television documentaries and a detailed teaching pack, designed to show pupils how the professionals do everything from selling a screenplay to managing a multiplex.

With the media now a compulsory component of the national curriculum, film-related studies are gaining an increasingly firm foothold in the timetable. Out of school hours, more than one million 11 to 18-year-olds go to the cinema at least twice a month.

However, according to Film Education's Amanda White, only a handful are familiar with the wheeling, dealing and plain hard work that lie behind the on-screen action; more importantly, nor are their teachers.

"Teachers of media, communications and business feel that demystifying the film industry is a crucial part of their work," says Miss White. "But a shortage of suitable material has meant many of them do not have a firm enough grasp of the business.

"Our aim is to help them to provide students with a clear understanding of the wide range of roles that exist within the film industry. The kids all want to be Spike Lee or Martin Scorsese, but we want them to appreciate that behind the glamour of film-making, there is a lot of financial risk and old-fashioned teamwork."

The Producer's Tale, the first of the three half-hour Film Industry programmes, was transmitted in BBC2's *Learning Zone* in the early hours of Wednesday, to be repeated April 9, 16 and 23. Documentaries on distribution and exhibition follow in May and June, and 21,000 free copies of the accompanying teaching packs are on the way.

The teaching pack includes copies of documents from UCI Cinemas outlining plans for a new multiplex in Ireland; in *The Producer's Tale*, leading producers such as Sir David Puttnam talk about the problems of juggling artistic and commercial priorities.

Each section also contains tasks lifted straight from what Miss White calls "the nitty-gritty" of the movie business. Acting as producers, pupils have to devise a film idea and then convince investors (played by their classmates) to put up millions of dollars; as distributors they must construct a trailer for a new release; as exhibitors, they must choose a viable site for a new cinema complex.

Beyond their short-term value for pupils' GCSE and A-level studies, prominent industry figures believe such exercises can help to train the next generation of British moviemakers and backers.

Rebecca O'Brien, who appears in *The Producer's Tale*, discussing her work as producer of Ken Loach's award-winning *Land and Freedom*, says: "If you want to get into this business, knowing the nuts and bolts of how a movie reaches the screen is just as important as having seen lots of films."

Another of *The Producer's Tale* interviewees, Nik Powell, executive producer of the screen version of Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch*, which opens today , says: "This initiative will not make an impact in terms of recruitment, because there has never been a shortage of young people. But there are no real training routes into the business.

"The Film Industry will help students through the fog that surrounds the complex and idiosyncratic structures of this business. The better educated people are, the better the British films we will produce."

Producers are not the only professionals to have been impressed by the teaching pack. The text is so clear and concise that a firm of entertainment lawyers has started using it as an induction pack for trainees, and the boss of one cinema chain always keeps his copy within easy reach.

● The Film Industry, *BBC2, 5.30am, Wednesdays until June 25. Packs are available from Film Education, 41-42 Berners Street, London W1P 3AA.*

Boys, it's a chronic decline of phonics

New research claims to show why boys trail at school. **John O'Leary** reports

While attention focused on the teacher unions and politicians early this week, an intriguing theory emerged about the root cause of the growing gender gap in educational performance.

The reasons for girls' increasing superiority has been a source of unending debate. Everything from the style of assessment to cultural shifts and an apparent decline in boys' self-esteem has been cited, but there has been no explanation for the phenomenon's gradual movement up the age range.

Young girls have always done better than boys, mainly, it is thought, because they mature more quickly. Even at GCSE, girls have been the traditional leaders in all but the sciences, and even that is changing. A-level has gone the same way and female students are winning the lion's share of the top degrees.

Bonnie Macmillan, a Canadian researcher living in London, believes that the causes can be found in the way children have been taught to read over the past two decades. Her book, published by the Institute of Economic Affairs, places the blame on teachers' reluctance to use phonics, the traditional method of teaching reading by decoding words from individual letter sounds.

Dr Macmillan's study, as one might expect from a right-wing think-tank, is polemic as much as research: its extensive survey highlights evidence to support her theory and ignores most of the rest. But, with the importance of phonics in the teaching of reading now well-established, the suggestion that previous practice may have had such an effect deserves attention.

Like many of the angrier critics of the education establishment, Dr Macmillan is inclined to overstate her case. "In general terms, one may find oneself wondering if it is possible that educational bureaucrats, teacher trainers, teachers' unions and organisations, in collaboration with book publishers and assisted by the rapid turnover of Secretaries of State for Education, may have conspired over a number of years to weave a complex veil of orthodoxy that has functioned most effectively to obscure the facts."

Publishers, who normally escape the attentions of traditionalist critics, are at the heart of Dr Macmillan's thesis. The reading schemes used by most schools are usually seen as evidence that teachers are not in thrall to progressive methods, but she argues the opposite. Because the books encourage whole-word recognition, they are actually minimising the use of phonics.

Naturally, the publishers deny this, and teachers insist that they do not slavishly follow the reading schemes alone. But other studies support the view that primary schools' claims to be using a mixture of techniques to teach reading (as the national curriculum requires) have disguised an under-use of phonics in many cases.

Dr Macmillan is certain that this is still the position in most schools, although her book by no means proves it. Whether or not it is, there can be little doubt that the use of phonics declined in the 1980s and the early years of this decade, when reading standards appear to have dropped. Can this have had a differential impact on boys and a knock-on effect for later learning?

Dr Macmillan cites evidence that developmental differences between the sexes put boys at greater risk of reading problems: boys have a shorter attention span in the first years of school and are slower to acquire language skills.

The absence of a widening gender gap in Scotland, where traditional methods have continued to hold sway, is used to support her view that the use of "look-and-say" techniques in England has put boys at a particular disadvantage.

From this conclusion, it is but a short step to attribute later educational failure to boys' poor foundations. In the crucial primary years, when girls, in any case, are developing more quickly, boys are still struggling to master the basics and never catch up.

The theory requires more evidence than Dr Macmillan has provided in her book, but it should not be discounted.

● *Why schoolchildren can't read* by Bonnie Macmillan; published by the IEA, 2 Lord North Street, London SW1P 3LB; £12.

COURSES

IBM/University of Portsmouth Sponsored Degree Scheme

In three years' time, you could be richer in more ways than one.

In 2000, you could be the proud possessor of an honours degree, ready to take on the job market. You could have a BSc (Hons) in Computer Science, valuable practical experience, the IBM name on your CV, and a healthy bank balance - since you will be paid throughout the three years. The IBM/University of Portsmouth Sponsored Degree Scheme offers all these and the advantages of a sandwich degree within three years rather than the conventional four.

This is how our integrated approach works. You will be on a paid, three year fixed term contract, based at IBM in Hampshire. During the initial nine months of your first year, IBM technical training is combined with University study, followed by a placement within one of IBM's project teams. The remaining years of the scheme comprise two days a week at university and three days working for IBM, with a summer school between years 2 & 3. Your work experience is assessed and counts towards your final degree classification. The course is accredited by the British Computer Society and is also recognised by the Engineering Council.

With IBM's resources at your disposal, you will be working with the very latest technology. We will also complement your technical training with business and personal skills development. On completion of the scheme you will be in a unique position to take advantage of the opportunities which will be available within the IT industry, in particular, IBM's graduate programme.

We are looking for people who have a minimum of six GCSE passes including mathematics and expect to achieve at least 18 A-level points or equivalent. Equally important will be a real interest in IT and the capacity to cope with an intensive study programme. For an application form and further information, please write to Helen Lavis, Student Employment Officer, IBM United Kingdom Limited, PO Box 41, North Harbour, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO6 3AU.

IBM is an equal opportunity employer.

The IBM homepage can be found on the Internet at http://www.ibm.com

IBM

Solutions for a small planet

TEP
TECHNOLOGY
ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAMME

ASSISTANT CO-ORDINATOR
4 POSTS

The Technology Enhancement Programme is the UK's largest curriculum initiative in design and technology for students 14 - 19.

Candidates should ● have experience of work in secondary schools or FE or initial teacher education ● be enthusiasts and good communicators ● be committed to furthering TEP's mission.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND MARKETING

Responsible for TEP promotion and sales within the educational, training and industrial worlds, prepare publications and promotional materials, market TEP; design and mount exhibitions; secure substantial sponsorship; represent TEP at professional events.

TRAINING AND FRANCHISING

Responsible for INSET and CPD, you will formulate materials and provide professional support directly or through local organisations; working with schools, colleges and training organsations.

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

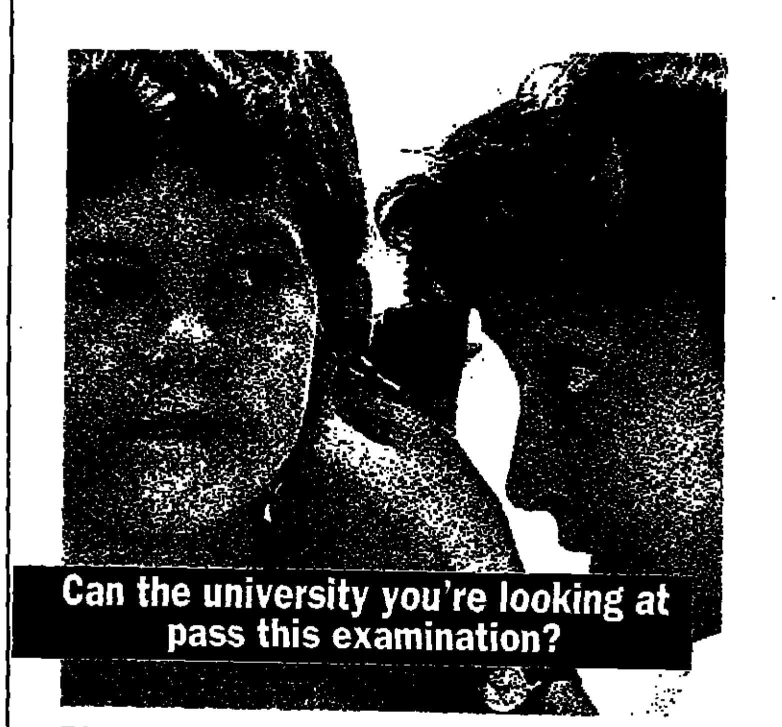
Responsible for resource development and for innovation through developing high-tech, low-cost learning materials.

INDUSTRIAL AND VOCATIONAL MATERIALS

Responible for work with colleges, industrial training organisations and companies mounting Modern Apprenticeships.

Salaries in the range of £18K - £31K p.a. 3 year PT or FT fixed term contracts. Secondments considered. Applications by CV and covering letter. Details from Alex Maclaren or Catherine Smyth, GTEP, 5 Old Mitre Court, London EC4Y 7BP. Tel. 0171 583 0900. Fax. 0171 583 0909.
Closing date: 16 April 1997.

EDUCATION



Can the university you're looking at pass this examination?

Take a close look at St. George's University School of Medicine. Here's what you'll find:

- Multi-national faculty of over 500 educators
- Clinical programme conducted in affiliated hospitals in the United States and the United Kingdom
- 88% pass rate for 1st-time takers in June 1996 United States Medical Licensing Exam, Part I
- Safe, friendly environment conducive to learning
- Entire programme conducted in English
- Strong network of student support services

If you like what you see here, there's even more. Including our two modern campuses: one on St. Vincent, and our new $25 million campus on Grenada.

For more information, contact:
Office of Admissions, Dept. AUK7, St. George's University School of Medicine, c/o The North American Correspondent: Medical School Services, Ltd., One East Main Street, Bay Shore, NY 11706-8399, USA.
Call: 1-516-665-8500
Fax: 1-516-665-5590
Email: sgu_info@sgu.edu
Include your address and phone number.

Come to our presentation:
Thursday, April 10, 1997
Kensington Park
De Vere Gardens
6-7:30 pm

St. George's University
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Grenada, West Indies

Look for us on the Internet—
http://www.stgeorgesuniv.edu/univ/

EAGLE EYES REQUIRED

Would you like to practice as a freelance proofreader or editor earning an excellent income working from home? Then mark the errors in in this advertisement and post it to Chapterhouse with your name, and a dress.

Well send you a free prospectus of our training services. Chapterhouse courses are respected internationally and our professional tutors give you their personal attention. We never pretend its easy, but we have a six-ear record of establishing many successful freelancers through our co-respondance training and seminars.

If your too busy a phone call will do.

Chapterhouse, 2 Southernhay West, Exeter EX1 1JG.
Tel: 01392 499488, Fax 01392 498008

QUEEN'S
LONDON & CAMBRIDGE

INTENSIVE BUSINESS SKILLS

April, July, September and January start

12, 24 & 36 week courses including:
Keyboarding, WP, Spreadsheets, D'bases, DTP,
Business Administration, Shorthand,
Management Appreciation & Career Development.

Queen's Business & Secretarial College
24 Queensberry Place
London SW7 2DS
Tel: 0171 589 8583

Queen's Marlborough College
Bateman Street
Cambridge CB2 1LU
Tel: 01223 367016

CARTOONING FOR PROFIT
Make money from your cartooning and illustration skills. Study from home for a new career or a profitable second income.
0800 371 500

Make £20,000 p.a. as a Travel Writer
This free Newsletter and prospectus shows you exactly how to become a Freelance Travel Writer.
0800 371 500

APPOINTMENTS

ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY
ABERDEEN

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION (Ref. 696A)

Applications are invited from well-qualified candidates for a new and exciting post of strategic Director of centralised, educational information systems within the University.

These include its libraries, central printing and media services, electronic network, computing support and its educational research and development.

The person appointed will be a member of the University's Strategic Management Team and will be expected to play a leading part in establishing and implementing its policies and strategies on information and IT for both students and staff.

Attractive salary plus a discretionary merit payment.
Local Government Superannuation Scheme.
Assistance with removal expenses where appropriate.

Closing date: 18 April 1997

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

SCHOLARSHIPS

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP
DEVONSHIRE HOUSE SCHOOL

The Music Scholarship will be awarded to a child of outstanding musical ability. Candidates for the Scholarship must have been born between 1st September 1988 and 31st August 1989.

The Music Scholarship will be held on Wednesday 23rd April 1997.

Devonshire House School is a co-educational school for children from two and a half to thirteen years of age.

For further information, please contact the Admissions' Secretary, Devonshire House School, 69 Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, London NW3 6PB.
Tel: 0171-435 1916.

هدية من الاهلي

هكذا من الاعلى

RUGBY UNION

Wasps hoping to redress balance with Sunday best

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE Courage Clubs Championship match between Wasps and Bath on Sunday was always likely to have a bearing on the destination of the league title but, after the tumultuous events of Wednesday night, the significance of the match is even greater. Having lost to Leicester at Welford Road, Wasps cannot afford another slip if they are to end the season in triumph.

They have the advantage over Leicester of having points in the bag. If they win their remaining five games, then Leicester would have to win seven matches and accrue a superior points difference to steal the title. For Bath, however, the season has gone from bad to worse. Defeat by Sale leaves their title defence in tatters and they will have to work hard to ensure qualification for the Heineken Cup next season.

"Anything can still happen but, realistically, our title hopes are over," Phil de Glanville, the Bath captain, said after his side lost 11-5 at Heywood Road on Wednesday. "There is a lack of confidence at the moment. We are not playing the game we should be and the way we were at the start of the season. We've got to finish in the top four because it's important for the club that we get a Heineken Cup place, but we have some hard games ahead."

Adding to the gloom at Bath is the air of uncertainty surrounding the future of Simon Geoghegan. The Ireland wing, who has made only a dozen first-team appearances since arriving from London Irish almost three years ago, withdrew from contention for the British Isles tour of South Africa because of foot problems that have plagued him all season and now threaten his career.

"I have to go back and speak to the surgeons," Geoghegan said. "I'll try something else, but if it doesn't work out I'll have to hang up my boots. At the moment my main concern is to try to get these feet right for the rest of my life."

Wasps are likely to field an unchanged XV at Loftus Road on Sunday, satisfied that they shared in an outstanding game with Leicester, despite the 18-12 reverse. "I'm just pleased at the level our game reached and now we have to sustain it," Nigel Melville, the director of rugby, said. "The reaction of our players to the defeat was brilliant — they were all sick, but there are so many young boys who can only get better."

Melville's belief is that home-grown players such as Nick Greenstock, Will Green and Shane Roiser have to be encouraged, and he denied reports from France that Christian Califano, the international prop from Toulouse, is poised to join the London club. He was particularly pleased with the form shown by Alex King and Rob Henderson, who seems to have added a yard of pace since his move from London Irish.

Leicester, meanwhile, will take a rare opportunity to rest players against Orrell at Welford Road tomorrow. Only two of their six Lions, Eric Miller and Neil Back, take the field and Joel Stransky, whose six penalty goals proved decisive against Wasps, is rested. Stransky has taken his points tally to 119 in eight appearances, but gives way at stand-off half to Rob Liley, whose brother, John, returns at full back.

England have confirmed that their tour of Argentina this summer will involve five matches, with internationals on May 31 and June 7. There will also be a five-match tour by England Under-21 to Australia, their final match, at Sydney Football Stadium on July 12, being a curtain-raiser to the senior international to be played between the Wallabies and England.

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wasps	17	14	0	3	526	319	28
Leicester	15	12	0	3	453	226	24
Bath	16	11	0	5	567	299	22
Harlequins	15	10	0	5	572	309	20
Saracens	14	9	1	4	381	279	19
Sale	15	9	1	5	397	303	19
Northampton	16	8	0	8	360	330	16
Gloucester	15	8	0	7	344	358	16
Bristol	16	5	0	11	312	483	10
W Hartlepool	18	3	0	15	308	642	6
London Irish	14	2	0	12	313	501	4
Orrell	17	2	0	15	225	711	4

Greenwood catches South African eye

By David Hands

AMONG the lesser lights chosen by the British Isles for the tour to South Africa this summer, one in particular caught the eye of Carel du Plessis, the new South Africa coach. It is the height of irony that, if du Plessis wanted in-depth information about Will Greenwood, he could contact the South African who plays alongside Greenwood at Leicester, Joel Stransky.

"We have seen most of them playing in the five nations' and I feel comfortable that we know a fair bit about the Lions," du Plessis said yesterday. "But Greenwood is a new name and I haven't seen a lot of Nick Beal. We are keen to analyse certain players and positions and I want to get hold of as much video material as possible."

Du Plessis appreciates the size and strength of the Lions forwards and described the backs as a good mix of playmakers and solid defenders but, like many others, he queries the likely combinations at half back and the quality among the wings and full backs. "The half backs will be very important because they will determine the style of game the Lions play," the former wing said.

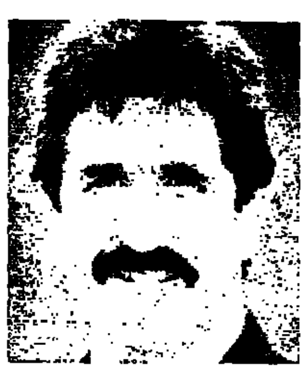
"If they have Gregor Townsend at stand-off, do they have Neil Jenkins at full back? He is a reliable place-kicker, but is he going to make it as the Test full back?"

Not that du Plessis need worry about the Lions problems since he has concerns of his own; the heavy provincial schedule makes it impossible for him to travel to watch Stransky and Francois Pienaar play the final month of the English season.

He hopes to select a squad of 26 or 27 players after the final of the Super 12 on May 31 and, depending upon the co-operation of provincial coaches, keep them together in camp while the Lions are in South Africa. They have a warm-up international with Tonga in Cape Town on June 10 and, if the players remain together for a month, that would go a long way toward negating the advantage enjoyed by a touring side.

Pride of Lions will be put to test on tour

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Union Commentary

Johnson, the Lions captain, must ensure he does not remain a shadowy figure on tour

For all the head scratching and eye-screwing searches through the notational charts over the past few months, the uncomplicated part is over. Although it cannot have seemed so at the time. Fran Cotton, the manager, and Ian McGeechan, the coach, will soon reflect that the selection of the British Isles tour party was the easy bit. After all, they and Jim Telfer, the assistant coach, got to see a lot of the sport they loved, observed a whole clutch of fine and not-so-fine players and had to choose 35.

There will have been a lot of chin wagging about who to leave in and leave out but, in truth, they will have enjoyed the exercise. Something of the kind has been going on in pubs and clubs since Christmas and conducted in not too dissimilar a fashion. Pub pundits take ther banter about sport very seriously indeed.

The difference is that the know-alls in the four-ale bar can now, at the call of last orders, prepare to go home and sleep the sleep of the contented man. For Cotton, McGeechan and their captain, Martin Johnson, the goblins will soon begin their rounds at midnight. Can the Lions win an international match series in South Africa for the second time? And if so, how will they do it?

The trip is the 24th overseas tour undertaken by the Lions since 1888. This is the first time they travel as professionals. This may signal a change in emphasis. Indeed, the future of the Lions may depend on what happens this summer. Hitherto, South Africa and New Zealand have found Lions tours more enticing and exhilarating than any tour undertaken by any one of the four individual countries.

But the rugby world is changing. With the success of the Super 12 fixtures and the advent of the Tri-nations series in the southern hemisphere, the question will arise as to whether the Lions can retain their magnetism. This tour needs to be successful; the matches evenly contested, the quality high.

Conclusions may already have been drawn, though, that the European championship, for all the joyous celebration it provides, may not pass muster south of the equator. In which case, nothing short of a series win for the Lions will do.

Lions tours have never been straightforward affairs. New Zealanders and South Africans do not know the half of it. To select the team from the four countries has always needed an element of diplomacy and at least a modicum of democratic distribution within the choice of players.

The Lions' task is to create a winning formula from so many disparate elements. This requires more than just players with the right physical and skilful attributes. It will require more than adopting the correct tactics. If it is to be assumed that the players have the right mental approach for the competition itself, it cannot be as readily assumed that the players have the personalities to create the *esprit de corps* to sustain them through a period of almost two months and the playing of 13 matches. There are tensions.

It could be argued that these are players who have already travelled long distances, who are accustomed to playing a series of fixtures in foreign lands. Brought together, however, almost randomly, there are men with whom they might not choose to travel.

For all the great honour and charisma of the Lions, it is complacent to presume that a "national" identity automatically attaches to them, and to which the players can react in the way the Springboks and the All Blacks naturally respond to theirs. The identity has to be worked upon and manifests itself as the tour progresses.

Cotton and McGeechan have to work so much harder at casting their spell to create a wholesome sense of camaraderie. In this respect, the Springboks and the All Blacks have a head start.

Johnson, the captain, needs to cement that relationship throughout the squad. He cannot be a shadowy figure. Everyone needs, swiftly, to be made to believe in him.

At the blazer-fitting stage in a smart London hotel, there will be the nudge-nudge frivolity of the nervous beginners. This jocularity will have a forced quality, but the rigorous training will soon get rid of that: they will no longer feel like strangers. This is when the fine balance between camaraderie and the will to win can be forged.

'Future of team may depend on what happens this summer'

The next test is when they arrive in South Africa. They must immediately embrace the country and not look upon it as an alien culture to be rejected. Retreating into their own private world will only court disaster. The first defeat is when the self-questioning begins. It is when confidence begins to erode.

Much will depend on how those who fail to make the international team, the so-called "dirt trackers" of the midweek fixtures, will respond to the overall objective. To what extent will they subsume their thwarted personal ambition for the greater good of the Lions cause?

The players will find the tour a richly rewarding experience, without parallel I would say, in rugby.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

This Refresher is about suit management. Do you know the best way to make three tricks out of

AK97 opposite J63

It is to lead out the ace and continue with a low one to the jack. If nothing dramatic has happened, you play a third round to the king. You only fail against Qx or Q10xx sitting over the jack.

So how would you play this slam:

♠KJ98
♥QJ
♦K652
♣J63

N
W E
S

♠AQ10
♥A3
♦AQJ9
♣AK97

Contract: 6NT by South
Lead: five of spades

You have eleven tricks on top, and if clubs were your only source of a twelfth you might play them as I describe above. But see what happens if, after you cash the ace and lead low to the jack, East wins and returns a heart. If the clubs are dividing and the heart is wrong you should take the ace of hearts, but if the clubs don't behave you should be taking the heart finesse.

When this hand occurred in the Macallan Camrose match between England and Scotland in December, both declarers were alive to this point. Each cashed the ace of clubs and entered dummy to play a club to the nine. That is not the best percentage play in the suit, and West took the ten, but he couldn't do any harm. Each declarer was subsequently able to test clubs before deciding whether to take the heart finesse. As seems to happen so often when someone plays correctly, most of the inferior lines would also have worked. The East-West hands:

♠752
♥1054
♦10874
♣1082

N
W E
S

♠843
♥K98762
♦3
♣Q54

☐ David Muller organises an under 19's bridge club at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. Activities include Duplicate Bridge Pairs, Minibridge Pairs, and supervised practice. The next meetings are on 12 and 27 April. Details: D Muller, 0181 952 2936; Young Chelsea Bridge Club 0171 373 1665.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Champions in France

It is noteworthy that two 20th century world champions, Alexander Alekhine and Boris Spassky, have taken up residence in France, yet their presence made no discernible impact on the overall level of chess in that country. Etienne Bacrot, 14, who has just become the world's youngest grandmaster ever, was not a trainee of Spassky but of grandmaster Josef Dorfman, formerly the trainer and second of Garry Kasparov.

Alekhine, who won the world championship 70 years ago, led the French team on several occasions, but his colleagues (who included the artist, Marcel Duchamp) must be considered minor masters rather than full international level or of grandmaster standard. It is possible that Alekhine's presence in the team may have overawed rather than encouraged his compatriots. Here is a complicated game from Alekhine's capture of the world title 70 years ago.

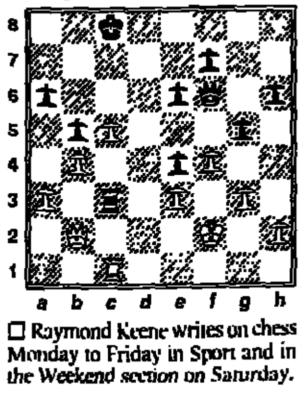
White: Alexander Alekhine
Black: Jose Capablanca
World championship, Buenos Aires, 1927

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	d5
4	Bg5	Nbd7
5	e3	Be7
6	Nf3	0-0
7	Rc1	c6
8	Qc2	a6
9	a3	h6
10	Bh4	Re8
11	Rd1	b5
12	cxb5	cxb5
13	Bd3	Bb7
14	0-0	Rc8
15	Qb1	Qa5
16	Ne2	Nb6
17	Ne5	Nc4
18	Bxf6	Bxf6
19	Bh7+	Kf8
20	Nd7+	Ke7
21	Nc5	Qb6
22	Nxb7	Qxb7
23	Bd3	Rc7
24	Qa2	Rec8
25	b3	Nd6
26	Qd2	Qb6
27	Rc1	Kd7
28	Rxc7+	Rxc7
29	Bb1	Be7
30	Nf4	Kc8
31	Qe2	g6
32	Nd3	Ne4
33	b4	Rc3
34	Qb2	Qc7
35	Nc5	Bxc5
36	dxc5	Qe5
37	f4	Qg7
38	Bxe4	dxe4
39	Kf2	Qf6
40	g3	g5
41	Rc1	

Black resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BIBLICALS

RAHAB
a. A teetotaller
b. Whore with a heart of gold
c. An Apocryphal prophet

ABIGAIL
a. A traitress
b. A nursemaid
c. A beauty

BARSABAS
a. A substitute
b. A friend of Joshua
c. A lawgiver

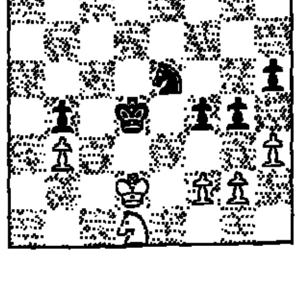
RHODA
a. An excitable girl
b. The wife of Peter
c. A Corinthian

Answers on page 45

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Moynihan — Speelman, Bunratty 1997. Can you see how Black made use of his tremendous space advantage to force a breakthrough on the kingside in this endgame?



Solution on page 45

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

AYRES, IVY FLORENCE AYRES SPINSTER late of Newton Abbot, Devon died there on 11 December 1996
(Estate about £35,000)
BAILEY, ROGER FREDERICK BAILEY otherwise ROGER BAILEY late of Greenford, Middlesex died there on 19 April 1996
(Estate about £11,900)
BLAKE, GEOFFREY LESLIE BLAKE late of Saxmundham, Suffolk died at Ipswich, Suffolk on 10 August 1996
(Estate about £5,600)
DAVIES, ERIC JOHN DAVIES late of Harrow, Middlesex died there on 21 December 1995
(Estate about £7,500)
ELLIOTT, JESSIE THERESA ELLIOTT SPINSTER late of Park Royal, London NW10 died there on 14 October 1996
(Estate about £19,000)
FERGUSON, ALBERT EDWARD FERGUSON late of Bexleyheath, Kent died there on 14 August 1994
(Estate about £6,800)
GUEST, KEITH WILLIAM GUEST late of Bournemouth, Dorset died there on 6 May 1996
(Estate about £25,000)
HOLLWEY, CHRISTOPHER FRANK HOLLWEY late of Birmingham died there on 8 February 1997
(Estate about £70,000)
HORSFALL, JACK HORSFALL late of Harrogate, North Yorkshire died there on 7 August 1996
(Estate about £6,000)
JOHNSTON otherwise JOHNSTONE otherwise JOHNSON nee EVANS, EDNA MARGARET JOHNSTON otherwise EDNA MARJORIE JOHNSTONE otherwise MARJORIE JOHNSON nee EVANS WIDOW late of West Bromwich, West Midlands died there on 8 February 1996
(Estate about £10,000)

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The South Wales Institute of Engineers
Scheme for the alteration of the objects of the Charity
Reference: VN/SWJ-4289-LT

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at The South Wales Institute of Engineers, Empire House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff, CF1 6DN, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity of C T Robinson
Scheme fully regulating the charity
Reference: JM/30445/CD(T)

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Hadens Solicitors St Mary's Chambers, 5 Breadmarket Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 6LQ, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: SAINT SARKIS CHARITY TRUST - 215352
Scheme: Regulating
Reference: ML/25111/CD(Ldn)

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at the offices of Economic and General Secretariat Limited, 98 Portland Place, London W1N 4ET, or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St. Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

KITCHENER, EDWARD KITCHENER late of Harefield, Middlesex died at Watford, Hertfordshire on 16 August 1996
(Estate about £8,000)
LUNN nee PAIN, EILEEN DORIS LUNN nee PAIN SINGLE WOMAN late of Balham, London SW12 died there on 18 March 1996
(Estate about £18,000)
RAMSEY, MICHAEL ALEXANDER RAMSEY late of Teddington, Middlesex died at St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex on 29 January 1996
(Estate about £7,600)
RUMSEY, EMILY RUMSEY WIDOW late of Harold Hill, Essex died Brentwood, Essex on 5 September 1982
(Estate about £1,600)
SMITH, WILFRED FRANK SMITH late of West Kensington, London W14 died there on 6 October 1996
(Estate about £16,000)
WEBB, BARBARA ANN WEBB otherwise BARBARA ANNE WEBB SPINSTER late of Doncaster, South Yorkshire died there on 17 August 1995
(Estate about £6,200)
WOOD nee ROUSE, RENEE WOOD nee ROUSE otherwise RENEE WOOD nee ROUSE WIDOW late of Edmonton, London N9 died at Winchmore Hill, London N21 on 7 December 1996
(Estate about £11,000)
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ESTATE OF ANNELISE BOEHM
Section 27 TRUSTEE ACT 1925

Any person having a claim against or interest in the estate of Anneliese Boehm late of Sonesta Nursing Home 797 Finchley Road London NW1 who died on 20 December 1996 should send written particulars of such claim or interest before 6 June 1997 to the undersigned Solicitors for the Executors who will distribute the Estate after that date amongst those entitled having regard only to claims and interests of which they have then had notice.
Randall Harris Solicitors
Deneway House, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1AQ

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to S27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that any person having a CLAIM AGAINST or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of JOAN COLLETT formerly AMOS late of 47 Richmond Drive, Glen Parva in the County of Leicester who died on the 9th day of March 1997 is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his/her claim or interest to the person or person mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before TWO MONTHS from the date of this publication (5th May 1997) after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the Executors among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interest of which they have had Notice
Particulars to : PHILIP J HAMMOND & SONS SOLICITORS 47 FRIAR LANE LEICESTER LE1 5QX Ref: 06 44 156
Signed : PHILIP J. HAMMOND & SONS

In the matter of Shin Nihon (U.K.) Limited
and
In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the liquidation of the above company intends to make a distribution to the creditors of the company within four months from 21 May 1997. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims to the liquidator at KPMG, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before 21 May 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The full details of claims, referred to above, must include the creditor's name and address, the amount of the claim and particulars of how and when the debt was incurred by the company.
Notice is also given that the intended distribution is a final distribution and will be made without regard to any claims not made by the last day for proving claims. All funds remaining in the liquidator's hands following the final distribution to creditors shall be distributed to shareholders absolutely.
Note: the company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 1 April 1997
PJ Bairne, Liquidator

NOTICE OF INTENDED DISTRIBUTION
YOUNG & SMITH LIMITED (In Member Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the liquidator of the above named company intends making a distribution to contributories. The creditors of the company are required, on or before 30 April 1997 to prove their debts sending to the undersigned Robert Stephen Palmer of Gallagher & Co 2nd Floor, Titchfield House, 69-85 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4RR the liquidator of the company, written statements of the amounts they claim to be due to them from the company and if so requested, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the liquidator to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt before the date mentioned above is not entitled to disturb, by reason that he has not participated in it, the intended distribution mentioned above or any other distribution declared before his debt is proved. DATED THIS 26. 3. 1997
R. S. PALMER
LIQUIDATOR

Banford Doors (London) Ltd IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, K. P. Barry, FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 1st April 1997. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address. All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.
K. P. Barry, FCA
Liquidator,
DATED THIS 1st April 1997

TEMPVS REPARATVM ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATES LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named company will be held at Plumtree Court, London, EC4A 4HT on 15 April 1997 at 11.00am for the purposes mentioned in sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected free of charge between 10.00am and 5.00pm at Plumtree Court, London, EC4A 4HT on 11 April 1997 and 14 April 1997.
DATED - 27 March 1997
By order of the Board
Brian Hodges
Director

LBC GROUP LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in pursuance of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT on 24 April 1997 at 11 am for the purpose of having an account laid before them, showing the events leading up to the appointment of the Joint Administrative Receivers, the manner in which the administrative receivership has been conducted and the property of the company disposed of, and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Joint Administrative Receivers.
Creditors whose claim are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
A person is entitled to vote at the meeting only if:
1. he has given to the Joint Administrative Receivers, no late than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted.
2. there has been lodged with the Joint Administrative Receiver, any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
DATED this 2nd day of April 1997
M L McKILLOP and M FISHMAN
Joint Administrative Receivers

NOTICE
Gerald Beasley (Deceased)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the estate of Gerald Beasley deceased of 7 Chancellor House, Greenbank, London, E1 who died on the 7th day of July 1989 and letters of administration to whose estate were granted on 8th March 1995 out of the Principal Registry to National Westminster Bank Plc of 41 Lothbury, London, EC2P 2BP are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or any interest to the undersigned solicitors by 10th June 1997 after which date the said administrator will proceed to distribute the estate among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which it has had notice and shall not be liable for the estate of the deceased or any part of it so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands it then has not had notice.
Dated this 2nd day of April 1997
Wilde Sapte,
1 Fleet Place
London,
EC4M 7WS
Solicitors for the Administrator

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
EMI GROUP AUSTRALIAN INVESTMENTS LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
(formerly named Sangpalm Limited)

I, David John Pallen of Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU hereby give notice that on 24 March 1997 I was appointed liquidator of the above named company.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above company are required, on or before 6 May 1997 to send in their full names and addresses and full particulars of their debts or claims to me and, if so required by notice in writing from me, are personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 26 March 1997
D J Pallen
Liquidator
N.B. All known creditors have been or will be paid in full, but if any persons consider they have claims against the company they should send in full details forthwith.

THE HIGH COURT
1997 31 COS
Court No. 5
IN THE MATTER OF HIBERNIAN INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF HIBERNIAN INSURANCE UK LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE ASSURANCE COMPANIES ACT, 1909 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSURANCE ACT, 1989 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (NON-LIFE INSURANCE) FRAMEWORK REGULATIONS, 1994
NOTICE

Pursuant to Article 12 of the European Communities (Non-Life Insurance) Framework Regulations 1994 of Ireland, and pursuant to Section 52B (2) of the Insurance Companies Act 1982 of the United Kingdom notice is hereby given that the transfer to Hibernian Insurance UK Limited of the non-life insurance business carried on by a branch of Hibernian Insurance Company Limited in the United Kingdom was sanctioned on the 21st day of March 1997 and effected at 6.00 p.m. on the 31st day of March 1997.
Dated the 4th day of April 1997.
A & L Goodbody,
Solicitors for Hibernian Insurance Company Limited,
1 Earlsfort Centre,
Hatch Street,
Dublin 2.
cpmt2401.03b

No. 749 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE CROYDEX COMPANY LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

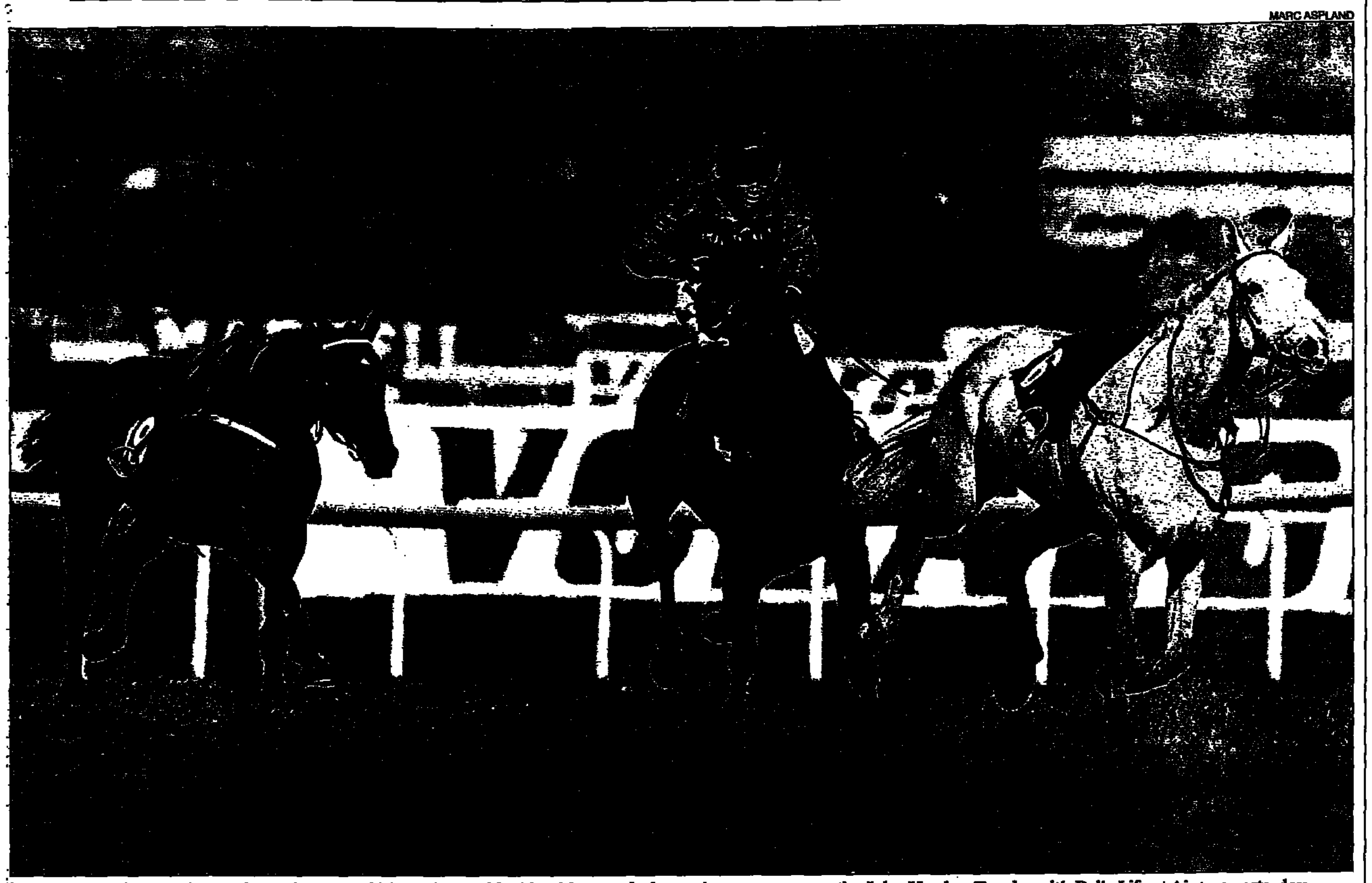
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 12 March 1997 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company from £4,000,000 to £2,797,744 and the minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 21 March 1997.
Dated this 4th day of April 1997
Garretts
Central House
47 St Paul's Street
LEEDS LS1 2TE
Ref: IWB.MRAV.CAG
Tel: 0113 244 1954
Fax: 0113 241 6291
Solicitors for the above named Company

In the matter of Stockgrange Finance Plc
and
In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above company will be held pursuant to section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 at 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP, on 18 April 1997 at 10:00am for the purpose of receiving the report of the administrative receivers and, if thought fit, appointing a creditors' committee. A creditor will be entitled to vote only if a written statement of claim is submitted to me at the above address by 12 noon on 17 April 1997 and if the claim is admitted for voting purposes. Any proxies that are intended to be used must be submitted to me before the meeting. A creditor whose claim is wholly secured is not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Date 1 April 1997
AB Thompson
Joint Administrative Receiver

IN THE MATTER OF WINTER PARTNERS LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Registered number 2102547
Nature of business - Banking Trading Software
Trade classification 36
Administration order made 20 March 1997
Malcolm Cohen (6825/01)
Anthony Peter Supperstone (2703/01)
Joint administrators

RACING: AINTREE HAZARDS HIGHLIGHTED BY DRAMATIC FINISH TO JOHN HUGHES TROPHY



MARC ASPLAND

Tormey has to take evasive action to avoid loose horses blocking his route before going on to capture the John Hughes Trophy with Bells Life at Aintree yesterday

Tormey steers clear of distractions

By Julian Muscat

WE ARE in for a vintage renewal of the Grand National if yesterday's drama is an accurate portent. Under sun-drenched skies, Aintree racecourse was at her mercurial best, threatening to ridicule the best efforts of Glenn Tormey on his first ride over the famous birch.

Partnering the Philip Hobbs-trained Bells Life, Tormey must have thought the job was done as he cleared the final obstacle in the John Hughes Trophy Chase with a decisive advantage. But it is not just the fences that can make mischief. Tormey had yet to negotiate the elbow, which diverts runners away from The Chair and on towards the winning post. As he approached it, his vision impaired by the glare of the sun, Tormey was suddenly corraled towards the dolled-off fence by two loose horses.

For a few strides Bells Life shaped as if to jump Aintree's biggest for the second time. Tormey managed to yank him back on course — but the loose horses now contrived to carry him in the other direction. Once again Tormey straightened his disorientated mount, whose rhythm had been seriously compromised. And justice eventually prevailed when he fended off Yeoman Warrior's late challenge to claim the prize.

Remarkably, given the visual images of his torment, Tormey recounted an alternative version on dismounting. "It was a bit scary heading off towards The Chair like that. I had my head down because I could hardly see where I was going. Sure, I had a bit of interference but those loose horses turned out to be more of a help than a hindrance." He was quick to add: "It wasn't as bad as it looked."

When Tormey reviews the video in the years to come, he will doubtless tell it differently. The incident underlined that, for all the softening of the fences, Aintree's little genie can still emerge without warning from the depths of the bottle. Indeed, we could do with a bit of old-fashioned drama in the big race tomorrow.

Drama of a less savoury dimension permeated the rest of the card, most notably the chapter of incidents surrounding the Martell Cup Chase over an extended three miles. The contest presented One Man with a suitable opportunity to recompense for his Gold Cup failure. Patiently ridden, as ever, by Richard Dunwoody, One Man stalked the field before he was unceremoniously pulled up with a full circuit remaining.

All courses at Aintree were being watered last night. Ian Renton, the assistant clerk of the course, said yesterday: "There will be watering on the Mildmay and hurdle courses to maintain good ground. We will also water selectively on the Grand National course."

Blood was streaming from both One Man's nostrils, although Dunwoody had no indication of the grey's tribulations from the saddle. Evidence that One Man had broken blood vessels might explain why he has appeared so lifeless in his races this season. Internal haemorrhaging is undectectable to the naked eye. If the problem has been afflicting him intermittently, it puts into uncomfortable perspective the widespread recent criticism of his courage.

With One Man sidelined, Merry Gale looked as assured winner when he swept past Barton Bank early in the home straight. But the Irish horse capitulated quickly; he is short of stamina over this distance and Barton Bank rescued a meaningful result from the wreckage to post a thoroughly meritorious victory.

David Nicholson, who trains Barton Bank, has worked wonders to revive the 11-year-old's faltering career. Much was made of his propensity to blunder away his chances, but the key seems to be his acute sense of claustrophobia. Both here and in the Gold Cup, in which he finished an honourable second, Barton Bank enjoyed the freedom of the track. His only error yesterday came at the third-last — when he was joined by Merry Gale.

Nicholson completed a treble when Midnight Legend and Escartefigue topped and tailed the seven-race card. And he might have reaped further dividends when Mulligan approached the second-last fence of the Sandeman Maghull Novices' Chase with the advantage over Squire Silk.

However, in duplicating his novicey departure at Cheltenham, Mulligan all but dislodged Jamie Osborne from Squire Silk as he rolled to the ground. Osborne survived — but a shocking error at the last fence almost cost him the prize he had earlier been handed on a plate.

Both Squire Silk and Mulligan might not have coped with Flying Instructor — but that horse was to exit unceremoniously at the third-last. It was that sort of day.

Viking Flagship ready to take command again

TODAY'S GUIDE TO AINTREE

2.00: Sanmartino, an excellent sixth behind Make A Stand in the Champion Hurdle, holds outstanding claims here, especially as the step up in trip should suit the former Ebor winner. Indeed, the form shown by David Nicholson's classy recruit in all his races, excluding the Cheltenham effort, reads better than that of his rivals and ground conditions will be in his favour.

The main threat will be posed by Marello, Mary Reveley's unbeaten mare, who bypassed the Cheltenham Festival and is sure to give a good account of herself. Outside of the first two in the betting, Influence Pedler should show further improvement for Jim Old.

2.35: This amounts to a rerun of the Queen Mother Champion Chase, with four of the first five reopposing. Strong Promise was travelling sweetly in the lead over arguably an inadequate trip at Cheltenham before a blunder three out ended his winning chance. Geoff Hubbard's admirable chaser would have finished much closer but for that and will appreciate today's step back up in trip.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: PENNY A DAY
(4.50 Aintree)
Next best: Sanmartino
(2.00 Aintree)

However, he still has to show considerable improvement to win here. Martha's Son ran the race of his career to beat Ask Tom and Viking Flagship at the Festival and is still relatively lightly raced, having missed most of last season. However, **Viking Flagship** beat Martha's Son in this race two years ago, was successful again in this event last season and can oblige over what is his best trip nowadays.

3.10: With the sun and wind drying out the course by the minute, the going is far from ideal for **Cyborgo**, but it is difficult to put up a realistic alternative to Martin Pipe's classy chaser. Despite finishing a distant eighth in the Gold Cup, his overall form is much superior to that of his rivals.

Buckhouse Boy, twice well beaten by the selection, would prefer easier going and it hard to see him reversing the form. Crown Equerry likes the mud and has twice broken blood vessels. Chopwell Curtains, who returned to winning action at Bangor 13 days ago after showing useful form in the autumn, is proven on a faster surface and looks the best outsider.

3.45: Mr Boston is a worthy favourite, but there are question marks against his form and **Blue Cheek** is given the vote (Carl Evans writes). On a line through Minella Express, he has the beating of the Mike Roberts-trained Trifast Lad, will love the ground, and has Robert Thornton, a very capable amateur, in the saddle. Chilipour has had training problems, but looks booked for a clear round and cannot be left out of the reckoning. Country Tarrogen is another worth considering in an open race.

4.20: Forest Ivory has progressed in virtually every run over hurdles having been a decent bumper horse last term. The step up to three miles should be in his favour after he stayed on resolutely to finish less than five lengths behind Istabraq at Cheltenham.

Salmon Breeze and Spring Double are others going the right way, but they may find it hard to beat the seven-year-old **Yahmi**. He landed in the lead over the last in the Gold Card final only to be outbattled by Pharanear. This flatter track will suit the Jim Old-runner, who loves fast ground.

4.50: Penny A Day, who is proven on fast ground, will be a popular choice after an eye-catching effort in the County Hurdle. The useful dual-purpose performer was a strong-finishing third, having made a mistake and lost his place at the fifth flight. Mary Reveley's horses are in cracking form and today's extra half-mile should suit.

Gales Cavalier, second to subsequent Champion Hurdle winner, Make A Stand, in the Lanzarote Hurdle, has solid claims along with Allegation and Castle Sweep, who were just pipped by Big Strand in the Coral Cup.

5.20: The Gordon Richards-trained Unguided Missile is the class horse of the race but, after falling in the Gold Cup, he may struggle to give so much weight away. Cab On Target showed he is no backnumber when second in the Foxhunters' at Cheltenham and the Reveley-trained runner will relish the going.

Fiveleigh Builds is admirably consistent but this represents a considerable step up in class. In a tricky finale, the well-handicapped **Bertone** makes some appeal. The eight-year-old has not raced for 111 days, but goes well fresh and Kim Bailey's horses are in form.

RICHARD EVANS

Old: saddles Yahmi

AINTREE

THUNDERER

2.00 **MARELLO** (nap)
2.35 Strong Promise
3.10 The Last Fling
3.45 Country Tarrogen
4.20 Tarrs Bridge
4.50 Ashwell Boy
5.20 Wudimp

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 **SANMARTINO.**

Carl Evans: 3.45 Blue Cheek.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 MARTELL MERSEY NOVICES HURDLE

(Grade II: £14,582: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

101	1116	SANMARTINO 24 (F,G,S) (K Abdulla) D Nicholson 5-11-5	R Dunwoody	[illegible]
102	11-1111	MARELLO 35 (G,S) (Mrs M Williams) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4	P Niven	83
103	11F231	COURBARIL 58 (B,F,G) (R Green) M Pipe 5-11-1	N Williamson	63
104	10	DEANO'S BEENO 24 (S) (Blue Chip Group) M Pipe 5-11-1	C Maude	82
105	3012	EASY LISTENING 15 (BF,G) (D Kacy Flint) N Hawke 5-11-1	J Railton	50
106	12-3	EVER BLESSED 142 (S) (Ever Blessed Partners) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-1	J F Titley	50
107	411	FAR AHEAD 20 (G) (Sarpak Potatoes) J Eyre 5-11-1	B Storey	61
108	1-20160	HURDANTE 23 (D,S) (TJA Consultants) G Balding 7-11-1	M A Fitzgerald	67
109	10-0521	JOHN DRUMM 13 (G,S) (A Jenkins) P Webber 6-11-1	J Osborne	56
110	11FF10	LISS DE PAOR 61 (D,G,S) (J Dempsey) A O'Brien (Ire) 6-11-0	C F Swan	75
111	612	INFLUENCE PEDLER 27 (D,G) (Miss S Blumberg) J Old 4-10-12	C Llewellyn	61
112	014046	NICOLA MARIE 13 (F) (Mr M Flynn) Mr M Flynn 8-10-10	K Whelan	-

BETTING: 7-4 Marello, 5-2 Sanmartino, 8-1 Courbaril, 10-1 Liss De Paor, 12-1 Influence Pedler, Ever Blessed, 14-1 others

1996: SILVER SHRED 5-10-12 J Lower (12-1) M Pipe 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

SANMARTINO about 11¼l 6th of 17 to Make A Stand in grade I Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). MARELLO beat Star Selection 6l in 8-runner novices hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good to soft). COURBARIL beat Eagles Rest ½l in 10-runner novices hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to firm). DEANO'S BEENO 21l 7th of 16 to Shadow Leader in grade I Citroen Supreme Novices Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). FAR AHEAD beat Banker Count ¾l in 21-runner novices hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good). HURDANTE best effort beat Mentmore Towers 9l in 12-runner novices hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Selection: SANMARTINO

2.35 MUMM MELLING CHASE

BBC2

(Grade I: £47,460: 2m 4f) (4 runners)

201	61-1212	ASK TOM 23 (C,F,G,S) (B Stewart-Brown) T Tate 8-11-10	R Garritty	97
202	113/2-F1	MARTHA'S SON 23 (D,F,G,S) (P Hartigan) T Forster 10-11-10	C Llewellyn	[illegible]
203	121415	STRONG PROMISE 23 (D,BF,F,G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-11-10	N Williamson	93
204	12-2413	VIKING FLAGSHIP 23 (CD,F,G,S) (Roach Foods) D Nicholson 10-11-10	R Dunwoody	95

BETTING: 6-4 Martha's Son, 5-2 Ask Tom, 11-4 Viking Flagship, 5-1 Strong Promise.

1996: VIKING FLAGSHIP 9-11-10 A P McCoy (5-2) D Nicholson 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

ASK TOM beat Clay County ¾l in 6-runner grade II Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Kempton (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start, with VIKING FLAGSHIP (14lb better off) about 2½l 4th. MARTHA'S SON beat ASK TOM 2½l in 6-runner grade I Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham (2m, good to firm) with VIKING FLAGSHIP 3l 3rd and STRONG PROMISE 9l 5th. STRONG PROMISE best effort beat One Man 1l in 4-runner grade I Comet Chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. VIKING FLAGSHIP beat Arctic Kinsman 3l in 4-runner chase at Kempton (2m, good) on penultimate start. Selection: STRONG PROMISE (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
K Bailey	7	27	25.9	R Garritty	4	18	22.2
G Balding	5	21	23.8	N Williamson	9	44	20.5
Mrs M Reveley	5	24	20.8	P Niven	5	26	19.2
N Twiston-Davies	9	50	18.0	C Llewellyn	3	16	18.8
D Nicholson	10	56	17.9	C Maude	3	17	17.6
G Richards	7	40	17.5	J Osborne	5	31	16.1

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 . . . B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.10 MUMM MILDMAY NOVICES CHASE

BBC2

(Grade II: £23,404: 3m 1f) (7 runners)

301	5P/31F1	JUDICIOUS CAPTAIN 20 (G,S) (J Adam) Mrs J Storey 10-11-7	Mr C Storey	57
302	U13F3U	THE LAST FLING 23 (D,F,G,S) (M Jackson) Mrs S Smith 7-11-7	R Guest	77
303	111/4-F1	BEAR CLAW 28 (B,S) (Roach Foods) O Sherwood 8-11-4	J Osborne	80
304	1FF22P	BUCKHOUSE BOY 23 (G,S) (Bawdry Boys) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-4	C Maude	84
305	132-211	CHOPWELL CURTAINS 13 (D,F,G) (Durham Drapes) T Easterby 7-11-4	L Wyer	62
306	4-P1P12	CROWN EQUERRY 37 (BF,F,G,S) (R Ogden) G Richards 7-11-4	P Carberry	82
307	14-1110	CYBORGO 22 (G,S) (County Stores) M Pipe 7-11-4	R Dunwoody	[illegible]

BETTING: 10-11 Cyborgo, 5-1 Buckhouse Boy, Bear Claw, 9-1 Chopwell Curtains, Crown Equerry, 10-1 The Last Fling, 33-1 Judicious Captain.

1996: ADDINGTON BOY 8-11-10 B Harding (7-2) G Richards 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

JUDICIOUS CAPTAIN beat Foxtrot Romeo 12l in 8-runner novices handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good). BEAR CLAW beat Carole's Crusader 15l in 11-runner novices chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, good to soft). BUCKHOUSE BOY pulled up behind Hanakham in 14-runner grade 1 Royal Sun Alliance Novices Chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to firm). CHOPWELL CURTAINS beat Mystic Isle 1l in 7-runner novices chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good). CROWN EQUERRY best effort beat Sasta Concerto 2l in 8-runner novices chase at Carlisle (3m, good to soft) on penultimate start. CYBORGO best effort beat BUCKHOUSE BOY (6lb worse off) 9l in 14-runner novices chase at Chepstow (3m, soft) on penultimate start. Selection: CYBORGO

3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE

BBC2

(Grand National course: amateurs: £14,070: 2m 6f) (14 runners)

401	PP2-44F	ABBOTSHAM 4P (F,G,S) (O Carter) O Carter 12-12-0	E James	70
402	U-131	BLUE CHEEK 16 (F,G,S) (Mrs B Graham) J Mahon 11-12-0	R Thornton	92
403	111-3	CHILIPOUR 75P (F,G,S) (R Vesey) V Dartnall 10-12-0	J Jukes	80
404	1228	COUNTRY TARROGEN 31 (G,S) (Mrs M Cooper) T Walford 8-12-0	N Wilson	78
405	1-P00	FARINGO 32 (G) (Aintree Challenge) Mrs D Grissell 12-12-0	W Gowlett	-
406	4253U	FORDSTOWN 13P (G,S) (J Alexander) J Alexander 8-12-0	Jamie Alexander	74
407	PUP02	GREAT POKEY 10 (F,S) Miss N Courtenay 12-12-0	Miss N Courtenay	66
408	0P0-012	HIGHLANDMAN 18 (G) (Mrs H Fraser) J Haldane 11-12-0	Chris Wilson	75
409	P-01P	HIGHWAY FIVE 20 (G,S) (Lady Brooke) Lady Brooke 9-12-0	M P Jones	63
410	P65-035	K C'S DANCER 157 (F,S) (Mrs D Weaver) R Dicker 12-12-0	J M Pritchard	62
411	P03-363	MATT REID 28 (B,F,G,S) (W Morgan) J Leigh 13-12-0	W Morgan	81
412	44F-111	MR BOSTON 28 (D,F,G,S) (M Oldham) Mrs M Reveley 12-12-0	S Swiers	[illegible]
413	2-211	TRIFAST LAD 31 (F,G,S) (M Roberts) M Roberts 12-12-0	P Hacking	79
414	2-251	YOUNG NIMROD 13P (F,S) (G Wragg) Mrs D Grissell 10-12-0	G Wragg	-

BETTING: 6-4 Mr Boston, 5-1 Country Tarrogen, Chilipour, 8-1 Trifast Lad, 10-1 Blue Cheek, Matt Reid, 12-1 others.

1996: ROLLING BALL 13-12-0 R Ford (7-2) S Brookshaw 26 ran

FORM FOCUS

ABBOTSHAM 1l 2nd of 7 to Fearsome in open race at Bishopsleigh (3m, good). BLUE CHEEK beat Landsker Missile 16l in 18-runner hunter chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good to firm) with GREAT POKEY (4lb worse off) distance 12th. GREAT POKEY 3l 2nd of 6 to Electric Committee in hunter chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). HIGHLANDMAN ¾l 2nd of 6 to Final Hope in hunter chase at Newcastle (3m, good to firm). MR BOSTON beat Carly Bro 20l in 5-runner hunter chase at Market Rasen (3m 1f, good) with MATT REID (7lb worse off) 27l 3rd. TRIFAST LAD beat Minella Express 2l in 6-runner hunter chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm), with YOUNG NIMROD (9lb worse off) tailed-off 5th. Selection: MR BOSTON

Blinkered first time

SEDGEFIELD: 2.10 Broomhill Duker. 3.55 Grand Scenery.

4.20 BELLE EPOQUE SEFTON NOVICES HURDLE

BBC2

(Grade I: £21,532: 3m 110yd) (12 runners)

501	2-21221	FLYING GUNNER 36 (D,S) (Mrs R Starr) D Nicholson 6-11-4	R Thornton	70
502	20-1124	FOREST IVORY 23 (G,S) (Old Foresters) D Nicholson 6-11-4	R Johnson	90
503	442300	HAND WOVEN 23 (F) (M Archer) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4	C Llewellyn	72
504	22-1152	LADY PETA 57 (F,G) (B Collins) N Henderson 7-11-4	J R Kavanagh	80
505	1-221	MENTMORE TOWERS 55 (D,F,G) (P Mattom) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	B Powell	79
506	1/4-1121	PRIVATE PEACE 47 (F,G,S) (Mrs A Daly) A O'Brien (Ire) 7-11-4	C F Swan	96
507	010-211	SALMON BREEZE 70 (D,F,G) (Salmon Racing) N Henderson 6-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	75
508	1-45012	SILVER THYNE 17 (BF,G,S) (R Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	J F Titley	68
509	3-40511	SPRING DOUBLE 34 (G,S) (Mrs L Berryman) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-4	C Maude	78
510	5-41211	STORMY PASSAGE 25 (S) (P Luff) P Hobbs 7-11-4	R Dunwoody	78
511	121550	TARRS BRIDGE 22 (B,D,F,G) (Tuesday Syndicate) C Mann 6-11-4	J Railton	96
512	05-1122	YAHMI 24 (D,BF,G) (W Sturt) J Old 7-11-4	J Osborne	[illegible]

BETTING: 3-1 Forest Ivory, 7-2 Yahmi, 4-1 Private Peace, 8-1 Flying Gunner, Mentmore Towers, 12-1 Salmon Breeze, Stormy Passage, 14-1 others

1996: PLEASURE SHARED 8-11-6 P Carberry (14-1) P Hobbs 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

FLYING GUNNER beat Bunny Hill Lad head in 15-runner novices hurdle at Huntingdon (3m 2f, good to soft). FOREST IVORY best effort neck 2nd of 8 to Agistment in novices hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. LADY PETA 1¼l 2nd of 11 to Lucia Forte in novices hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to firm) with SILVER THYNE (7lb worse off) 24l 7th. MENTMORE TOWERS beat Barton Ward 12l in 14-runner novices hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, good). TARRS BRIDGE 39l 9th of 17 to Karshi in grade I Bonusprint Stayers Hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good). YAHMI 2l 2nd of 24 to Pharanear in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 2f, good). Selection: FOREST IVORY

4.50 ODDBINS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£12,653: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

601	33-1233	CASTLE SWEEP 23 (D,G,S) (Lord Vestey) D Nicholson 6-12-0	R Johnson	94
602	0P0-612	ALLEGATION 23 (V,D,G,S) (M Pipe Racing) M Pipe 7-11-7	Jamie Evans	94
603	111-133	PENNY A DAY 22 (D,G,S) (J Good) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-0	P Niven	[illegible]
604	51-605R	TRAGIC HERO 22 (B,C,G,S) (Knight Hawks) M Pipe 5-10-9	C Maude	97
605	F1-4PF2	ASHWELL BOY 13 (F,G,S) (A S Racing) P Hobbs 6-10-6	M A Fitzgerald	96
606	1-23223	GALES CAVALIER 62 (G,S) (Starlight Racing) D Gandolfo 9-10-6	R Dunwoody	96
607	53-3414	CADOUGOLD 48 (D,BF,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 6-10-4	C F Swan	94
608	12P-011	FRICKLEY 13 (G,S) (R Ogden) G Richards 11-10-1	P Carberry	94
609	11-4434	OUTSET 42 (CD,G,S) (M Kilner) M Hammond 7-10-0	Mr C Bonner (3)	98
610	0-P0111	SHERIFFMUIR 34 (D,S) (J Wadham) Mrs L Wadham 8-10-0	J F Titley	96
611	5245-P0	LUCKY BLUE 8F (D,G,S) (F Newman) S Earle 10-10-0	N Williamson	90
612	0-31240	AMBLESIDE 22 (S) (B Yin) Mrs S Williams 6-10-0	D Bridgwater	89
613	6-3400	WELL ARMED 37 (Clayton Bigley) J J O'Neill 6-10-0	-	56

Long handicap: Sheriffmuir 9-11, Lucky Blue 9-9, Ambleside 9-5, Well Armed 6-13.

BETTING: 4-1 Castle Sweep, 5-1 Penny A Day, 6-1 Allegation, 7-1 Cadougold, Frickley, 8-1 Ashwell Boy, 9-1 Sheriffmuir 10-1 others.

1996: OUTSET 6-10-1 Mr C Bonner (7-1) M Hammond 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

CASTLE SWEEP 3l 3rd of 4 to Large Action in grade I Cleeve Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. ALLEGATION short-head 2nd of 28 to Big Strand in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm) with CASTLE SWEEP (1lb better off) another head 3rd. PENNY A DAY best effort beat Fassan 3l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). Dec 95 CADOUGOLD 3¾l 4th of 12 to Brave Tornado in limited handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft). OUTSET best effort 5¾l 3rd of 13 to Tullymurry Toff in grade III Tote Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good) on penultimate start. SHERIFFMUIR, improved form, beat Rangitikei 3½l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). Selection: CADOUGOLD

5.20 PERRIER JOUET HANDICAP CHASE

(£10,270: 3m 1f) (8 runners)

1	3-1222F	UNGUIDED MISSILE 22 (D,F,G,S) (D Harrison) G Richards 9-12-0	R Dunwoody	98
2	2-13145	CALL IT A DAY 24 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Lane) D Nicholson 7-10-9	R Johnson	[illegible]
3	4P2-112	CAB ON TARGET 22 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (N Hurst) Mrs M Reveley 11-10-1	P Niven	94
4	1-12344	BERTONE 111 (F,G) (Mrs H Dudley) K Bailey 8-10-1	C O'Dwyer	94
5	U3/-031F	GENERAL PERSHING 13 (D,F,G,S) (J Potter) D Nicholson 11-10-1	N Williamson	94
6	21-0464	ALL FOR LUCK 24 (CD,F,G,S) (B Craig) M Pipe 12-10-0	C F Swan	89
7	224122	FIVELEIGH BUILDS 31 (D,F,G,S) (Miss L Russell) Miss L Russell 10-10-0	A Thornton	92
8	21118P-	WUDIMP 308 (CD,F,G,S) (C Storey) Mrs J Storey 8-10-0	Mr C Storey	70

Long handicap: All For Luck 9-10, Fiveleigh Builds 9-8, Wudimp 8-9

BETTING: 9-4 Unguided Missile, 4-1 Call It A Day, 5-1 All For Luck, 11-2 General Pershing, 6-1 Bertone, 8-1 Cab On Target, 10-1 others.

1996: ALL FOR LUCK 11-11-0 J Lower (11-1) M Pipe 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

UNGUIDED MISSILE best effort neck 2nd of 6 to Jodami in grade I Jim Ford Challenge Cup Chase at Haydock (3m, good to firm), Jan 97. CALL IT A DAY about 3¼l 5th of 14 to Flyer's Nap in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good). BERTONE 8l 4th of 10 to Addington Boy in grade III Tripleprint Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm) with ALL FOR LUCK (1lb better off) 48l 7th. GENERAL PERSHING best effort beat Lackendara 4l in match at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. ALL FOR LUCK, below form, about 20l 4th of 11 to King Lucifer in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to firm). FIVELEIGH BUILDS best effort beat Whispering Steel 1½l in 7-runner handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, good to firm), Jan 97. Selection: CALL IT A DAY

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
AINTREE 101 201
LINGFIELD 102 202
SEDGEFIELD 103 203
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Prince Foley reigns supreme on debut

BILL TURNER sent out his third two-year-old winner in three days when Prince Foley landed the Knighton Median Auction Maiden Stakes at Leicester yesterday on his debut. The Sherborne trainer, who has just five juveniles in his care, prepared the Greensmith colt to beat Arian Da by two lengths after missing the break, running green and giving most of his rivals a start of at least ten lengths.

"I feared he might do that because I have had trouble with him at home getting him to go between horses," Turner said. Prince Foley's jockey, Derek McGaffin, 18, was gaining his first winner from 54 rides.

*FREE Golf Umbrella. Win or lose.
FREE UMBRELLA FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £25 or more using Switch or Delta bank or building society debit cards.
RING TODAY - BET TODAY
0800 44 40 40
(Minimum total investment per call £10. Over 18's only.)
*Free umbrella will be sent within 7 to 10 days of your first bet being placed.
ODDBINS HANDICAP HURDLE
2 miles 4 furlongs, Aintree 4.50pm, Live on SIS.
4/1 Penny A Day
6/1 Castle Sweep
6/1 Gales Cavalier
13/2 Ashwell Boy
7/1 Cadougold
7/1 Frickley
8/1 Allegation
9/1 Outset
10/1 Sheriffmuir
25/1 Ambleside
28/1 Lucky Blue
33/1 Tragic Hero
N/R Well Armed
N/R = Trainer states non-runner.
Each way One Quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3. Prices subject to fluctuation.
Available up to 4.35pm. Tattersalls Rule 4(c) may apply. Non runner – no bet.
LATEST ODDS ON William Hill TV TEXT
William HILL
TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 289 892 WILLIAM HILL RULES APPLY
PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION

هكذا من الاعلى

RACING: STOUTE-TRAINED HOPE OVERCOMES AMERICAN CHALLENGE IN DUBAI

Singspiel has world at his feet

SINGSPIEL, trained by Michael Stoute, saw off a strong American challenge to win the world's most valuable race, the $4m Dubai World Cup, at Nad Al Sheba yesterday.

Given a well-judged ride by his jockey, Jerry Bailey, Singspiel was produced on the inside to strike the front over a furlong out and beat favourite Siphon by 1¼ lengths, with Sandpit 1½ lengths back in third. Bailey has now won both runnings of the race, having landed the inaugural event last year on Cigar.

The success completed an amazing run of big-race triumphs from around the world for Stoute, after the Canadian International, Breeders' Cup Turf and the Japan Cup, two of which were achieved with Singspiel.

Stoute, who sent Singspiel to acclimatise in Dubai in January, paid tribute to his backroom team as he savoured "one of the greatest thrills of my career".

"This is a wonderful moment. I owe an awful lot to John Cork, Greville Starkey and Kevin Bradshaw, who have looked after Singspiel out here in Dubai, and I must congratulate Singspiel for his versatility.

"We felt he was handling the surface and the kickback well in training. But you can't have a rehearsal for what happened out there. But on his distaff side, he's all dirt."

Singspiel's victory was good reward for his owner, Sheikh Mohammed, who organised for the race to be re-staged after it had been washed out by torrential rain on Saturday. However, the weather was perfect for yesterday's event, to which a massive local audience of 35,000 flocked.

"I've won some great races, but to win the big race in my own country is a great thing and I am very happy to win the Dubai World Cup," Sheikh Mohammed said.

"I hope this proves to the Europeans that even grass horses can do it on dirt. It is always hard to beat the Americans and this is a great surprise, a pleasant surprise."

Sadly, the Japanese-trained challenger, Hokuto Vega, was put down after clipping the heels of another runner and breaking her near fetlock. She brought down Bijou D'Inde in the process, giving Jason Weaver a heavy fall. Weaver, believed to have broken some teeth, was taken to hospital for precautionary X-rays but was not thought to be seriously hurt.

Tamayaz, fifth in last year's Dubai World Cup, won yesterday's main supporting race, the Dubai Duty Free. Ridden by Frankie Dettori, Tamayaz beat Clive Brittain's Needle Gun by a length, with the locally-trained Magellan back in third.

Simon Crisford, racing manager for Godolphin, which owns Tamayaz, said: "That was an excellent performance. He loves the track and the surface. He could have run in the World Cup but at that level he is slightly exposed. He will run in Europe for the first half of the season, and we will spot a race for him in North America on dirt in August or September."

BIG-RACE DETAILS

DUBAI WORLD CUP (£1,428,571: 1m 2f)
1. SINGSPIEL .... J D Bailey
2. Siphon .... D Flores
3. Sandpit .... C Nakatani

ALSO RAN: Key Of Luck (4th), Formal Gold (5th), Jugglor (6th), Even Top (7th), Kammtarra (8th), Luso (9th), Flemensfirth (10th), Hokuto Vega (f), Bijou D'Inde (bd). 12 ran. NR: Halssio. 1¼l, 1½l, 2¾l, 1¼l, 2½l, 5½l. M Stoute at Newmarket. 2min 01.91sec.

No official starting prices. Bookmakers will settle bets according to their own odds

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT

Jerry Bailey, on board Singspiel, salutes the crowd

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Aintree

Going: good

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1. MIDNIGHT LEGEND (R Johnson, 11-2); 2. Sharpical (M A Fitzgerald, 100-30 fav); 3. High In The Clouds (S Wynne, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Green Green Desert (6th), 9-2 Nigel's Lad (5th), 9 Nordic Breeze, 11 Mister Rm (4th), 20 Crandon Boulevard (pu), 25 No Pattern (pu). 9 ran. 2l, 3l, 10l, 2l, dist. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote: £7.20; £2.50, £1.70, £2.30. DF: £10.10. Trio: £42.30. CSF: £22.10.

2.35 (3m 1f ch) 1. BARTON BANK (D Walsh, 100-30); 2. Merry Gale (C O'Dwyer, 11-2); 3. Rouyan (J Titley, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 6-4 fav One Man (pu), 7-2 Challenger Du Luc (4th). 5 ran. 9l, 1½l, 2l. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote: £4.10; £2.00, £1.40. DF: £7.60. CSF: £16.67.

3.10 (2m ch) 1. SQUIRE SILK (J Osborne, 2-1; Thunderer's nap); 2. Oh So Risky (P Holley, 11-1); 3. Sublime Fellow (M A Fitzgerald, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Mulligan (f), 15-2 Amancio (4th), 8 Flying Instructor (f). 6 ran. 15l, 16l, 12l. A Turnell at Wantage. Tote: £3.10; £1.60, £2.70. DF: £13.60. CSF: £19.50.

3.45 (2m 6f ch) 1. BELLS LIFE (G Tormey, 14-1); 2. Yeoman Warrior (D O'Sullivan, 33-1); 3. Kadi (R Johnson, 8-1 jt-fav); 4. Aly Daley (Mr C Bonner, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 8-1 jt-fav Golden Spinner, Romany Creek (pu), Senor El Betrutti (6th), 9 Coonawara (pu), The Frog Prince (pu), 10 Too Plush (f), 12 Flimsy Truth (f), 14 No Pain No Gain (5th), 20 Change The Reign (bd), Kings Cherry (f), Master Boston (ur), Pond House (ur), Sailor Jim, 50 Cropredy Lad (f), 100 Griffins Bar (ur), 150 Super Sandy. 20 ran. 3l, 5l, 1¼l, 4l, 18l. P Hobbs at Minehead. Tote: £20.50; £4.20, £12.80, £2.90, £7.00. DF: £369.80. Trio: £3,300.50. CSF: £378.77. Tricast: £3,584.37.

4.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1. QUAKERS FIELD (D Gallagher, 8-1); 2. Far Dawn (C Maude, 14-1); 3. Circus Star (R Johnson, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav L'Opera (f), 13-2 Hard News, 7 Summer Spell (4th), 10 Marlonette, 12 Ginger Fox (pu), 14 Quality (6th), 16 Mr Wild (5th), 20 Noble Lord, 25 Balladur. 12 ran. NR: Fasil. 5l, 5l, 1l, 4l, 2l. G L Moore at Brighton. Tote: £10.20; £2.50, £4.80, £2.50. DF: £141.40. Trio: £262.20. CSF: £107.54.

4.50 (3m 1f ch) 1. BITOFAMIXUP (Mr P Hacking, 9-4); 2. Howayman (Mr A Parker, 7-1); 3. Ardbrennan (Mr E James, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Orchestral Suite (f), 9 Tom's Gemini Star (f), 16 Johnny The Fox (ur), 20 Lurriga Glitter (5th), Sands Of Gold (4th), 33 Tangle Baron (6th). 9 ran. NR: Making Time, The Rum Mariner. Dist, 1l, 11l, 3½l, 4l. M Roberts at Hailsham. Tote: £3.00; £1.50, £1.70, £2.80. DF: £6.20. Trio: £9.10. CSF: £17.09.

5.20 (3m 110yd hdle) 1. ESCARTEFIGUE (R Dunwoody, 6-1 fav); 2. Big Strand (C Maude, 8-1); 3. Freddie Muck (T Jenks, 10-1); 4. What A Question (C O'Dwyer, 15-2). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Erzadjan, 11 Danjing, 12 Brave Tornado, House Captain (pu), 14 Dr Leunt (5th), Kingdom Of Shades, Silver Shred (pu), Smith Too, Tamarpour, 20 Top Spin, 25 Victor Bravo (6th), 33 Better Times Ahead (pu), 100 Rose King (pu). 17 ran. 3l, 5l, 1l, 3½l, hd. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote: £6.50; £2.40, £2.40, £2.70, £1.70. DF: £36.40. Trio: £190.40. CSF: £49.62. Tricast: £449.56.

Jackpot: £102,882.20 (0.2 winning tickets. Pool of £115,923.70 carried forward to Aintree today).

Placepot: £520.10. **Quadpot:** £85.70.

Leicester

Going: firm

2.25 (1m 8yd) 1. Sylvan Princess (M Rimmer, 5-2 fav); 2. Mimosa (9-2); 3. Charlton Imp (7-2). 6 ran. NR: Angel Face. 1½l, 2l. D Cosgrove. Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £2.80. DF: £5.10. CSF: £12.12.

2.55 (5f 218yd) 1. Grand Lad (M Roberts, 5-6 fav); 2. Indian Spark (5-1); 3. Irish Accord (3-1). 6 ran. 2½l, 1l. R Armstrong. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £1.80. DF: £2.70. CSF: £5.39.

3.30 (5f 218yd) 1. Brave Envoy (S Drowne, 7-1); 2. Terry's Rose (16-1); 3. Bellarula (16-1). Charlton Spring 11-4 jt-fav. 11 ran. 1½l, nk. M Heaton-Ellis. Tote: £11.70; £3.20, £3.40, £7.80. DF: £99.90. Trio: not won (pool of £331.52 carried forward to 3.45 at Aintree today). CSF: £113.54.

4.05 (5f 2yd) 1. Prince Foley (D McGaffin, 16-1); 2. Arlan Da (16-1); 3. Sea Imp (25-1). Rejected 13-8 fav. 10 ran. 2l, 1½l. W G M Turner. Tote: £35.20; £4.80, £6.00, £4.10. DF: £83.90. Trio: £218.70. CSF: £229.88.

4.40 (1m 3f 183yd) 1. Kota (K Fallon, 9-1); 2. Night Mirage (1-3 fav); 3. Three Cheers (7-2). 6 ran. Nk, 7l. J Wharton. Tote: £7.50; £1.50, £1.40. DF: £5.40. CSF: £11.93.

5.10 (1m 1f 218yd) 1. Stanton Harcourt (Pat Eddery, 1-2 fav); 2. Sursey (7-2); 3. London's Heart (6-1). 6 ran. NR: Nambucca, Western Sonata, Woodlands Lad Too. 2½l, ½l. J Dunlop. Tote: £1.30; £1.20, £2.40. DF: £2.90. Trio: £5.20. CSF: £3.14.

5.40 (7f) 1. Plaisir D'Amour (Pat Eddery, 4-6 fav); 2. Artenxerxes (12-1); 3. Mujova (14-1). 8 ran. NR: Night Dance, Last Chance. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £2.30, £1.30. DF: £11.10. Trio: £32.10. CSF: £10.69. Tricast: £67.36.

Placepot: £1,219.40. **Quadpot:** £647.80.

Taunton

Going: firm

2.15 (2m 1f hdle) 1. Mystic Hill (J Frost, 1-6 fav); 2. Kai's Lady (5-1); 3. Miss Gee-Ell (20-1). 4 ran. NR: Contract Bridge. 2½l, 12l. R Frost. Tote: £1.30. DF: £1.70. CSF: £1.56.

2.45 (3m 110yd hdle) 1. Co-Tack (Chris Webb, 13-2); 2. Anorak (6-4 jt-fav); 3. Master Goodenough (13-2). Prince Equiname 6-4 jt-fav. 4 ran. NR: Rory'm. 20l, dist. R Livermore. CSF: £14.93.

3.20 (3m ch) 1. Doualago (G Supple, 4-7 fav); 2. Herbert Buchanan (6-4). 2 ran. 11l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.30.

3.55 (2m 1f hdle) 1. Shifting Moon (D Byrne, 7-4); 2. Layham Low (7-2); 3. Little Shefford (11-10 fav). 3 ran. 7l, dist. F Jordan. Tote: £2.10. DF: £3.00. CSF: £5.98.

4.30 (2m 110yd ch) 1. Northern Singer (T Dascombe, Evens fav); 2. Ketchican (4-1); 3. Indian Temple (7-4). 3 ran. 7l, 1½l. R Hodges. Tote: £1.90. DF: £1.80. CSF: £4.08.

5.00 (3m ch) 1. L'Uomo Piu (Mr O McPhail, 10-1); 2. Rusty Bridge (2-1 fav); 3. J B Lad (25-1). 7 ran. NR: Manor Bound. 1½l, hd. A Barrow. Tote: £16.60; £2.60, £1.30. DF: £9.20. CSF: £30.46.

Placepot: £308.20. **Quadpot:** £30.20.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

LINGFIELD PARK: Trainers: Lord Huntingdon, 48 winners from 228 runners, 21.1%; L Montague Hall, 14 from 79, 17.7%; R Armstrong, 15 from 85, 17.6%; Miss G Kelleway, 27 from 163, 16.6%; G Lewis, 23 from 142, 16.2%; C Brittain, 30 from 196, 15.3%. Jockeys: L Dettori, 88 winners from 349 rides, 25.2%; D Holland, 45 from 179, 25.1%; Pat Eddery, 13 from 57, 22.8%; R Cochrane, 64 from 365, 17.5%; S Whitworth, 40 from 247, 16.2%.

SEDGEFIELD: Trainers: H Oliver, 4 winners from 10 runners, 40.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 71 from 245, 29.0%; J Fitzgerald, 13 from 51, 25.5%; K Morgan, 3 from 14, 21.4%; G M Moore, 22 from 133, 16.5%; Mrs A Swinbank, 6 from 41, 14.6%. Jockeys: Jacqui Oliver, 6 winners from 14 rides, 42.9%; G Lee, 9 from 41, 22.0%; M Foster, 4 from 25, 16.0%; J Supple, 12 from 76, 15.8%; J Callaghan, 17 from 109, 15.6%.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER

2.10 Mick The Yank. 2.45 Diamond Beach. 3.20 Hee's A Dancer. 3.55 The Toaster. 4.30 Greenmount Lad. 5.00 Field Of Vision.

Carl Evans: 4.30 Greenmount Lad.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS

2.10 STONEGRAVE AGGREGATES NOVICES SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,077: 2m 5f 110yd) (15 runners)

1	4540	DONT FORGET CURTIS 18 Mrs K Lamb 5-11-12	Miss S Lamb (7)
2	020	AMAZING SAIL 41 Miss M Milligan 4-11-4	A S Smith
3	00-P	DUGORT STRAND 64 K Morgan 6-10-11	X Aizpuru (7)
4	0PF5	ROYAL HAND 16 (V) R Arnison 7-10-6	Mr R Arnison
5	-0P5	GREENFINCH 18 (V) Mrs A Naughton 6-10-6	M Foster
6	6320	ARTHUR BEE 16 B Bousfield 10-10-3	M Moloney
7	040-	WHITEGATESPRINCESS 336 B Ellison 6-10-2	C McCormack (7)
8	0065	MICK THE YANK 23 (B) H Oliver 7-10-1	Jacqui Oliver
9	0000	NOSMO KING 18 Mrs M Kendall 6-10-0	K Johnson
10	/43-	ROSTINO 556 J Wade 8-10-0	G Cahill
11	0000	BEACON HILL LADY 4 B Ellison 4-10-0	D Parker
12	5033	CATTON LADY 84 R Craggs 7-10-0	B Grattan (5)
13	F085	MEADOWLECK 11 W Young 8-10-0	S Taylor (5)
14	UFPP	BROOMHILL DUKER 66 (B) J Howard Johnson 7-10-0	A Dobbin
15	000-	NITE SPRITE 311 R Barr 7-10-0	N Horrocks (7)

4-1 Amazing Sail, 5-1 Arthur Bee, Dont Forget Curtis, 7-1 Mick The Yank, 8-1 others

2.45 STANLEY RACING GOLDEN NUMBERS SERIES NOVICES HURDLE (£2,548: 2m 1f) (13)

1	2100	MAPLE BAY 14F (F) B Ellison 8-11-6	A Dobbin
2	6041	SILVER MINX 36 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-6	G Lee (3)
3	/0P-	BELIEVE IT 353 N Waggott 8-11-0	R Supple
4	-056	MILENBERG JOYS 30 W Tinning 5-11-0	T Reed
5	0300	OVER STATED 18 J Wade 7-11-0	K Jones
6	21	SILENT GUEST 151 (F) M Hammond 4-11-0	D Bentley
7	4213	SIX CLERKS 28 (G) J Fitzgerald 4-11-0	F Leahy (3)
8	5/0	THE MICKLETONIAN 115 J Charlton 6-11-0	K Johnson
9	-005	PENNY PEPPERMINT 30 R Barr 5-10-9	D Parker
10	U021	DIAMOND BEACH 11 (S) G Moore 4-10-8	E Callaghan (3)
11		TOPUP 73F M Barnes 4-10-8	S Taylor (5)
12		LUCKY HOOF 188F K Morgan 4-10-3	X Aizpuru (7)
13	00	QUEEN'S COUNSEL 14 Miss M Milligan 4-10-3	A S Smith

7-2 Six Clerks, 4-1 Silent Guest, 9-2 Diamond Beach, 5-1 Maple Bay, 6-1 others

3.20 WASHINGTON HOSPITAL NOVICES CHASE

(£3,574: 2m 110yd) (11)

1	3133	TWIN FALLS 17 (D,F,G,S) G Moore 6-11-12	J Callaghan
2	P60P	ARISTODEMUS 11 Mrs L Marshall 5-11-0	K Johnson
3	06U6	DISTILLERY HILL 17 V Thompson 9-11-0	Mr M Thompson
4	0U3P	GONE ASHORE 76 M Barnes 6-11-0	J Burke
5	235/	ITS A DEAL 682P (G) S Chadwick 11-11-0	G Cahill
6	4-P0	NOBODYS FLAME 24 S Pittendrigh 9-11-0	Mr T J Barry (7)
7	4423	TAPATCH 22 (F,G) M W Easterby 9-11-0	A Dobbin
8	0400	TRIONA'S HOPE 11 E Caine 8-11-0	Mr M H Naughton (5)
9	0P42	NAWTINOOKEY 11 M Todhunter 7-10-9	C McCormack (7)
10	402F	HEE'S A DANCER 31 (F) Miss L Russell 5-10-7	M Foster
11	-P00	WHITEGATES WILLIE 17 J Howard Johnson 5-10-7	A S Smith

9-4 Twin Falls, 11-4 Tapatch, 4-1 Hee's A Dancer, 5-1 Nawtinookey, 10-1 others.

3.55 REG AND RIDLEY LAMB MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,496: 2m 5f) (6)

1	2324	RUSTIC AIR 18 (G,S) J Fitzgerald 10-11-10	W Dwan
2	4PP1	THE TOASTER 17 (CD,F,G,S) Miss M Milligan 10-11-4	E Callaghan (3)
3	1363	REVE DE VALSE 24 (F,G,S) R Johnson 10-10-8	K Johnson
4	1360	GERMAN LEGEND 4 (F) D Lamb 7-10-2	J Burke
5	F4F0	GRAND SCENERY 22 (B,F,G) J Howard Johnson 9-10-2	A S Smith
6	P6PU	QUIXALL CROSSETT 11 E Caine 12-10-0	Mr M H Naughton (5)

5-4 The Toaster, 5-2 Rustic Air, 6-1 Grand Scenery, Reve De Valse, 8-1 others.

4.30 STANLEY THOMPSON MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,604: 3m 3f) (5)

1	0532	BOREEN OWEN 6P (CD,G,S) D Harrison 13-11-9	A Parker (7)
2	04R6	FISH QUAY 13P (F,G,S) Mrs K Lamb 14-11-9	Miss S Lamb (7)
3	P2R1	GREENMOUNT LAD 13P (G,S) J Cornforth 9-11-9	P Cornforth (7)
4	2464	UPWELL 11 (CD,F) R Johnson 13-11-9	P Johnson (5)
5	/6F0	LA MAJA 13P N Wilson 8-11-4	C Mulhall (7)

4-5 Greenmount Lad, 4-1 Boreen Owen, 5-1 Upwell, 8-1 Fish Quay, 10-1 La Maja.

5.00 JOHN JOYCE HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,320: 2m 1f) (10)

1	1343	FIELD OF VISION 9F (CD,F,G) Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-12	J Supple
2	0451	GLENUGIE 17 (CD,F,S) G Moore 6-11-8	N Bentley
3	3U14	RED JAM JAR 159 (C,BF,F,G) S Bell 12-11-5	K Johnson
4	6-P0	ERINY 21 (F,S) J Quinn 8-10-13	E Callaghan (3)
5	F502	HIGHLAND WAY 11 (G) M Todhunter 9-10-12	C McCormack (7)
6	-5U6	SKIDDAW SAMBA 49 (CD,F) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-5	G Lee (3)
7	23-F	CATCH THE PIGEON 22 R Barr 8-10-3	N Smith
8	4245	AIDE MEMOIRE 30 (D,S) R Johnson 8-10-1	Mr M H Naughton (5)
9	6-65	I'M TYSON 17 Mrs D Sayer 9-10-0	M Moloney
10	0-25	STAGS FELL 185 (CD,F,G) T Cuthbert 12-10-0	Carol Cuthbert

9-4 Field Of Vision, 4-1 Glenugie, Highland Way, 7-1 Skiddaw Samba, 10-1 others.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.20 Days Of Grace. 2.55 Deep Water. 3.30 *Tuigamala.* 4.05 *Ertlon.* 4.40 *Davoski.* 5.10 Robo Magic.

GOING: FIRM (TURF COURSE); STANDARD (ALL-WEATHER)
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

2.20 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND TANDRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,232: 5f) (8 runners)

1	(8)		FLAMING EMBER B Meehan 9-0	M Tebbutt	–
2	(2)		KEYSER SOZE D Haydn Jones 9-0	C Rutter	–
3	(3)		LOCH LAIRD M Madgwick 9-0	D Harrison	–
4	(4)		SACCHETTI M Channon 9-0	T Quinn	–
5	(6)	0	SUGGEST 15 (BF) Miss G Kelleway 9-0	D Holland	–
6	(1)	0	BANNINGHAM BLADE 13 K Ivory 8-9	Martin Dwyer (3)	–
7	(5)	5	DAYS OF GRACE 15 Martyn Meade 8-9	J Reid	●
8	(7)		NANOUSHKA R Hannon 8-9	Pat Eddery	–

15-8 Nanoushka, 7-2 Sacchetti, 4-1 Suggest, 9-2 Flaming Ember, 6-1 Days Of Grace, 12-1 Keyser Soze, 14-1 others

2.55 BAKERS LANE MAIDEN STAKES (£3,677: 6f) (6).

1	(4)	0/	INTISAB 676 R Armstrong 4-9-5	G Carter	–
2	(2)		CAMBRIDGE BLUE G Lewis 3-8-12	Pat Eddery	–
3	(3)	3-3	DEEP WATER 18 (BF) P Cole 3-8-12	T Quinn	●
4	(6)		MALABI J Dunlop 3-8-12	L Dettori	–
5	(5)	663-	WILLIAM WALLACE 244 D Haydn Jones 3-8-12	C Rutter	76
6	(1)		LITTLE ANNIE G L Moore 3-8-7	S Whitworth	–

2-1 Deep Water, 5-2 Malabi, 5-1 Little Annie, 6-1 Cambridge Blue, 7-1 others

3.30 WEATHERBYS BULLETIN MAGAZINE HANDICAP (All-weather: £2,914: 1m 2f) (10)

1	(1)	312-	ANAK-KU 242 (S) Miss G Kelleway 4-10-0	Angela Gallimore (7)	90
2	(6)	-620	DIGPAST 22 (B,C,G) M Madgwick 7-10-0	D Harrison	99
3	(8)	1533	TALLULAH BELLE 11 (CD,G) N Littmoden 4-9-12	T G McLaughlin	●
4	(7)	0541	SWEET SUPPOSIN 11 (V,CD,G) C Dwyer 6-9-12 (5ex)	L Dettori	95
5	(2)	1213	CALENDULA 27 (BF,G) D Morley 4-9-3	G Carter	97
6	(10)	-032	TUIGAMALA 31 (C,BF,F,G) R Ingram 6-9-3	A McGlone	97
7	(5)	-122	SHANGHAI LIL 43 (C,BF,G) M F-Godley 5-9-0	F Norton	96
8	(9)	2241	AWESOME POWER 8 (CD,G) J Hills 11-9-0 (5ex)	A Clark	94
9	(4)	4415	HARLEQUIN WALK 37 (C,G) R O'Sullivan 6-8-4	J Quinn	97
10	(3)	0-06	PARONOMASIA 38 J L Harris 5-7-10	R Ffrench (7)	85

7-2 Tallulah Belle, 4-1 Sweet Supposin, 5-1 Shanghai Lil, 6-1 Awesome Power, 7-1 Calendula, 9-1 Anak-Ku, 10-1 Tuigamala, 12-1 others

4.05 LIGHTWEIGHT PLASTERING HANDICAP

(£3,964: 7f) (8)

1	(8)	-150	RAKIS 6 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs L Stubbs 7-10-0	L Dettori	93
2	(5)	53-3	SHARP SHUFFLE 14 (D,G) R Hannon 4-9-10	Pat Eddery	92
3	(1)	36-0	BANZHAF 34 (CD,G) G L Moore 4-9-9	G Duffield	86
4	(4)	501-	NATURAL KEY 187 (F,G) D Haydn Jones 4-9-7	C Rutter	87
5	(3)	2241	ERTLON 22 (CD,F,G) C Brittain 7-9-6	M Roberts	95
6	(7)	000-	STATOYORK 181 (D,F) B Hills 4-9-1	M Hills	95
7	(2)	010-	SALTANDO 153 (F,G) Pat Mitchell 6-8-8	Martin Dwyer (3)	80
8	(6)	0111	BARBASON 8 (CD,G) G L Moore 5-8-6 (6ex)	Candy Morris	●

6-4 Barbason, 4-1 Sharp Shuffle, 5-1 Ertlon, 6-1 Natural Key, 8-1 Rakis, 10-1 Statoyork, 12-1 others

4.40 HEVER MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

(All-weather: 3-Y-O: £2,277: 1m 2f) (7)

1	(1)	-042	AROUND FORE ALLISS 36 T Mills 9-0	S Sanders	94
2	(7)	36-	DAVOSKI 169 B Hills 9-0	M Hills	●
3	(3)	3	FARLEY MOUNT 11 Lord Huntingdon 9-0	D Harrison	91
4	(6)		FLASHTALKIN' FLOOD C Dwyer 9-0	J Stack	–
5	(5)	042-	PROTOCOL 141 J Hills 9-0	D Holland	98
6	(4)		EILEEN'S LADY G Margarson 8-9	G Carter	–
7	(2)	00-	HEAVENLY HAND 105 G L Moore 8-9	Candy Morris	–

6-4 Davoski, 3-1 Protocol, 4-1 Around Fore Alliss, 9-2 Farley Mount, 16-1 Eileen's Lady, Flashtalkin' Flood, 25-1 Heavenly Hand

5.10 LINGFIELD APRIL SPRINT HANDICAP

(All-weather: £3,677: 6f) (12)

1	(12)	20-0	KILDEE LAD 14 (D,F,G) A Jones 7-10-0	T Sprake	92
2	(10)	2635	ROBO MAGIC 22 (CD,F,G) L M Hall 5-9-13	F Lynch (3)	98
3	(9)	3232	APOLLO RED 11 (CD,F,G,S) G L Moore 8-9-8	Candy Morris	●
4	(5)	-065	INTIAASH 11 (D,F,G) D Haydn Jones 5-9-6	Joelene Richards (7)	94
5	(1)	56-0	FRIENDLY BRAVE 4 (C,D,F,G,S) Miss G Kelleway 7-9-4	D Holland	90
6	(3)	20-0	BLAZING CASTLE 13 (F) W G M Turner 3-9-2	D McGaffin (7)	91
7	(11)	14-4	PURPLE FLING 22 (D,F,G,S) L Cottrell 6-9-2	R Cochrane	93
8	(4)	1045	SHARP IMP 11 (B,CD,BF,F,G) R Flower 7-8-12	L Dettori	95
9	(6)	-536	NIGHTINGALE SONG 41 (D,G) M Meade 3-8-7	J Reid	91
10	(8)	5143	IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 8 (B,C,F,G) K Ivory 4-8-1	Martin Dwyer (3)	94
11	(2)	1023	SIR TASKER 36 (CD,F,G) J L Harris 9-7-11	J Quinn	93
12	(7)	1103	TACHYCARDIA 38 (CD,F,G) R O'Sullivan 5-7-10	N Varley	91

7-2 Apollo Red, 5-1 Sharp Imp, 7-1 Ivory's Grab Hire, Purple Fling, 8-1 Intiaash, Robo Magic, 10-1 Sir Tasker, 12-1 others

---

EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION

THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE

£40,000 of prizes to be won

Enter a team today for the Argentine Grand Prix

HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED IN BRAZIL

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole J Villeneuve 30 points; 2nd M Schumacher 25; 3rd G Berger 24; 4th M Hakkinen 23; 5th O Panis 22; 6th J Alesi 21; 7th G Fishichella 20; 8th H-H Frentzen 19; 9th D Hill 18; 10th R Schumacher 17; 11th R Barrichello 16; 12th D Coulthard 15; 13th J Herbert 14; 14th E Irvine 13; 15th S Nakano 12; 16th P Diniz 11; 17th J Trulli 10; 18th U Katayama 9; 19th N Larini 8; 20th J Magnussen 7. **Finishing points** (scored for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st J Villeneuve 60 points; 2nd G Berger 50; 3rd O Panis 40; 4th M Hakkinen 30; 5th M Schumacher 29; 6th J Alesi 28; 7th J Herbert 27; 8th G Fishichella 26; 9th H-H Frentzen 25; 10th D Coulthard 24; 11th N Larini 23; 12th J Trulli 22; 13th M Salo 21; 14th S Nakano 20; 15th J Verstappen 19; 16th E Irvine 18; 17th D Hill 17; 18th U Katayama 16. (Only 18 finished). **Lap points** (one point for each lap completed): J Villeneuve 72 points; G Berger 72; O Panis 72; M Hakkinen 72; M Schumacher 72; J Alesi 72; J Herbert 72; G Fishichella 72; H-H Frentzen 72; D Coulthard 71; N Larini 71; J Trulli 71; M Salo 71; S Nakano 71; J Verstappen 70; E Irvine 70; D Hill 68 (DNF); U Katayama 67; R Schumacher 52; R Barrichello 16; P Diniz 15. **Improvement from starting grid to finishing position** (3 points for each improved place): M Salo 27 points; N Larini 24; J Herbert 18; J Verstappen 18; J Trulli 15; O Panis 6; D Coulthard 6; G Berger 3; S Nakano 3. **Fastest lap time of grand prix** J Villeneuve 10 points. Penalty points. Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. **Elimination during the race** (10 points deducted): D Hill -10 points; R Schumacher -10; R Barrichello -10; P Diniz -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): none. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

CONSTRUCTORS Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Williams 30 points; Benetton 25; Prost 24; McLaren 23; Ferrari 22; Sauber 20; Jordan 19; Minardi 15; Tyrrell 14; Arrows 10. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. **Elimination of a car during the race** (10 points deducted): Arrows -20 points; Jordan -10; Stewart -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): none. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

The Fantasy Formula One scores for the Brazilian Grand Prix in Interlagos appear below with the total points gained by each driver and constructor so far. They show Berger leading the drivers with 272 points and McLaren heading the constructors with 53 points. The Brazilian race was also the first of our six bonus races which saw only 26 team managers gain the full 600 bonus points, from more than 65,000 playing our £40,000 game, for correctly predicting the first, second and third placed drivers.

The winner of the trip for two to the British GP for the performance of his or her team at Interlagos was PIN number 5263373069 (no name supplied). This mystery person scored 1,523 points and heads our leaderboard with 2084 points. The second highest score was achieved by B Day of Staines, Middlesex. His team, Tetch Meistors R, scored 1,499 points and lies in second place on The Times leaderboard with 2,043 points. He wins a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom games. There is still plenty of time to enter a team for the Argentine Grand Prix by choosing six racing drivers and six constructors – three from each of the four groups below. Lines are open for registration until noon on Thursday, April 10. You can also use our transfer lines and check your position on our table.

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures in light type after the names show the Fantasy Formula One Brazilian GP race scores, the second column the total competition points so far

DRIVERS

GROUP A					
01 D Hill	93	90	07 M Hakkinen	125	253
02 M Schumacher	126	261	08 D Coulthard	116	266
03 J Villeneuve	172	192	09 R Barrichello	22	77
04 E Irvine	101	113	10 H-H Frentzen	116	222
05 J Alesi	121	164	11 J Herbert	131	141
06 G Berger	149	272	12 M Salo	119	160

GROUP B					
13 O Panis	140	257	19 G Fishichella	118	135
14 J Verstappen	107	99	20 S Nakano	106	227
15 U Katayama	92	126	21 N Larini	126	247
16 P Diniz	16	130	22 J Trulli	118	232
17 R Rosset	0	0	23 J Magnussen	7	41
18 R Schumacher	59	65	24 V Sospiri	0	0

CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C		
25 Williams	30	29
26 Ferrari	22	37
27 McLaren	23	53
28 Benetton	25	38
29 Jordan	9	-11
30 Prost	24	46

GROUP D		
31 Arrows	-10	-3
32 Sauber	20	31
33 Tyrrell	14	-6
34 Minardi	15	23
35 Stewart	-10	-30
36 Lola	0	0

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 405 001
+44 990 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls). ● For inquiries call 01582 702 720, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm

THE PRIZES

JACKPOT
The team manager heading our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard after the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on October 26, will win **£25,000**. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up.

INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS
The manager of the team which scores the most points in the Argentine Grand Prix will win a trip for two to the British Grand Prix on July 13.
The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation with a Formula One and Porsche Challenge game worth £250.

PlayStation

TRANSFERS

If you've already entered a team you can change up to four selections before the Argentine GP by calling 0891 555 994 (++44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday April 10. Your new team must comprise three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three selections you make will be deemed to be your prediction for the Monaco GP bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the 24-hour checkline 0891 884 648 (Republic of Ireland 0044 990 100 348) and tapping in their 10-digit PIN number. The line currently carries all positions after the Brazilian Grand Prix and will be updated again on Wednesday April 16 after the Argentine GP.

TO ENTER BY PHONE

Call our entry hotline on **0891 405 001** (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). Calls last approximately seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone (most telephones with * and # keys are Touch-tone).

Follow the instructions on the entry line and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name, together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number (please note, you need to speak these details). You will receive a 10-digit PIN number as confirmation of your entry. Please keep a record of this with your team details.

You can enter a team at any time until noon on Thursday, April 10, to qualify for the start of the Argentine Grand Prix.

BY POST/FAX

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will receive a 10-digit PIN number to confirm your entry.

Or fax the form with your credit-card details to 01582 452106 (+44 1582 452106 outside the UK).

To qualify for the Argentine Grand Prix, postal entries must arrive by first post Tuesday April 8, and faxed entries by noon on that day.

THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £2.50 payable to Fantasy Formula One, and post it to: The Times Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Or fax it on 01582 452106 (+44 1582 452106 outside the UK).
The closing date for receipt of this form to qualify for the Argentine Grand Prix is first post Tuesday, April 8 1997, and noon on that day for faxed entries.

GROUPS A AND B DRIVERS

1st	2nd	3rd
☐☐	☐☐	☐☐
☐☐	☐☐	☐☐

GROUP C AND D CONSTRUCTORS

☐☐	☐☐	☐☐
☐☐	☐☐	☐☐

Team Name ....
Signature ....
Date ....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .... Initials ....
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE
Surname ....
Address ....
....
Postcode .... Daytime Tel ....
Credit Card Payment Card number:
☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date ☐☐☐☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐
Name on card ....
Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from that above
Signature .... TD

FOOTBALL: ESTABLISHMENT OF SEVEN-POINT LEAD PROMPTS SUPPORTERS TO TAKE PLACE IN FRANCE FOR GRANTED

Brown calls for caution as Scots celebrate

By Kevin McCarra

SCOTLAND may have put themselves in with an excellent chance of reaching the World Cup finals, but it is not a position with which they are entirely comfortable. After the 2-0 victory over Austria in the group four qualifying match at Celtic Park, Craig Brown, the manager, squirmed uneasily at talk of the strides his team had made towards a place in France next year.

Brown spoke, quite properly, of the hazards contained in the next fixture, in Gothenburg, and of the ambitions that Sweden and Austria still harbour of winning the group. All the same, no amount of good sense could drown out the supporters on Wednesday, who sang: "Que sera sera, whatever will be, will be, we're going to Gay Paree . . ."

In the stands there was no learned discussion of the fact that Scotland, with their seven-point lead, have played two matches more than their principal rivals. In any case, faith rests not on arithmetic, but on a calculation of the heart.

The Scotland team is the focus of a public affection that has been absent for almost 20 years. The 1978 World Cup was, like one of Don Quixote's adventures, the stuff of delusion, but while exaggeration is no longer permitted, attendances are subject to inflation.

On Wednesday, there were 43,295 people at Celtic Park. They had surely come to witness a puzzle as much as an achievement. In the leading tournaments, only Greece, with a dubious penalty, and England have beaten Scotland since December 1994, yet these standards have been set by a curious assortment of players gathered from a variety of backgrounds.

Gary McAllister, of Coventry City, and John Collins, of AS Monaco, have earned esteem in the sport and were at the heart of a series of beautifully articulated moves in the second half, when Scotland were on the verge of embarrassing Austria as well as defeating them. Players of less exalted reputation, however, mattered just as much.

Darren Jackson, who is attempting to ward off relegation with Hibernian, is suffering with a badly bruised shoulder and, on the morning of the game, was reluctant to play because he feared that he might only last a few minutes. Dragooned into the side and heavily strapped, he nonetheless went on to harass a ponderous Austria defence, creating the first of Kevin Gallacher's two goals.

Jackson's team-mate at Easter Road, Jim Leighton, is swathed in a greater reputation, but it is still startling that, at the age of 39, he seems to be improving. On his 77th appearance for his country, the goalkeeper kept his fortieth clean sheet for them.

In the past four years, Leighton has been selected only when Andy Goram has been injured, but Brown is now giving his first hints that the order of precedence could be reversed.

"Jim was magnificent," the manager said. "I have twice had to tell him that he was being left out because I believed that Goram was the more suitable choice, but I would have no hesitation about saying the same thing to Andy."

Brown is liable to be trusted with the verdict, for he is in the midst of a phase when his decisions prove unerringly effective. There was wily intelligence at work in the decision to omit Paul McStay and prefer Paul Lambert, a defensive midfield player, who was detailed to stifle Andreas Herzog.

Brown knew, of course, how effectively that task had already been performed at club level this season, when Borussia Dortmund, Lambert's club, defeated Herzog's Werder Bremen 4-0. The impact of managers, though, has its limits, and none of his preparatory work wholly explains the alchemy of excitement that allows players to excel.

In football, emotions underpin events, and when Gallacher made sure of victory with an instinctive, curling drive that finished high in the corner of Konsel's net, the thrill of the occasion and the yearning of a Scot to assist his country were all implicit in the sweet contact of boot on ball.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	6	4	2	0	7	0	14
Austria	4	2	1	1	3	3	7
Sweden	4	2	0	2	7	4	6
Estonia	4	1	1	2	1	3	4
Belarus	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
Latvia	4	0	1	3	3	7	1

RESULTS: Sweden 5 Belarus 1; Austria 0 Scotland 0; Belarus 1 Estonia 0; Latvia 1 Sweden 2; Latvia 0 Scotland 2; Estonia 1 Belarus 0; Belarus 1 Latvia 1; Sweden 0 Austria 1; Austria 2 Latvia 1; Scotland 1 Sweden 0; Estonia 0 Scotland 0 (in Monaco); Scotland 2 Estonia 0; Scotland 2 Austria 0.

MATCHES TO COME: Apr 30: Austria v Estonia; Sweden v Scotland; Latvia v Belarus. May 18: Estonia v Latvia. June 8: Latvia v Austria; Estonia v Sweden; Belarus v Scotland. Aug 20: Estonia v Austria; Belarus v Sweden. Sept 6: Austria v Sweden; Latvia v Estonia; Scotland v Belarus. Sept 10: Belarus v Austria; Sweden v Latvia. Oct 11: Austria v Belarus; Sweden v Estonia; Scotland v Latvia.

Cornwall's finest happy to resort to the quiet life

Russell Kempson meets the Wembley referee who can escape from football's pressure

Taking the 25-minute train ride from Liskeard to Looe, in Cornwall, is like being transported back in time. The single-carriage conveyance trundles gently down the valley, skirting the river and past grazing cattle and sheep, farms and holiday homes, impenetrable woodland and Christmas tree plantations. At Coombe junction, the ticket collector dons his fluorescent jacket, disembarks and changes the points.

Getting on or off at St Keyne, Causeland or Sandplace is by request to the driver. At the few crossings, signs politely advise motorists to give way to the trains. "It's not really a case of escaping the rat race," Martin Bodenham said, "but it is so lovely down here. So quiet, so peaceful; no traffic, no smog."

Bodenham, who will referee the Coca-Cola Cup final between Leicester City and Middlesbrough on Sunday, lives at the end of the line, at Heron Creek, high on the cliffs above East Looe that look out to sea and beyond; high above the claustrophobic streets, steep alleys and souvenir shops, some of which still stubbornly refuse to accept credit cards.

Wembley, the FA Carling Premiership and the angst-ridden world of football is of another planet. Normality for Bodenham, 46, is watching the fishing fleet return to harbour, the frigates en route to and from Devonport or the seagulls swirling in the breeze outside his lounge window.

"I used to come down here every year and I just loved the place," he said. "I saw the house and bought it straight away. I suppose you could say the views are panoramic; actually, they're sensational."

In his tidy hideaway, hewn out of the hillside in 1940, and amid the multitudinous refereeing mementoes that neatly adorn the walls and cabinets, Bodenham reflected on an all-consuming passion of 31 years. He was born in Brighton, privately educated at Goring Hall in Worthing and worked in Sussex until finally succumbing to the lure of Looe nine years ago.

"I played a bit of football at school, but I was told by my sports master, in no uncertain terms, that I would not be good enough to become a professional," he said. "He told me to try refereeing, so I did.

"I was a bit lucky at first. I was quite a big lad and I suppose, even at 16, I had a bit of presence about me. I got my Class One pretty quickly, at 21, and reffed in the Sussex Sunday League. I'd sometimes do four games in a weekend, but I didn't have a car so I had to go everywhere by bus. I had a good grounding."

He has subsequently officiated around the world — in Japan, alongside Gary Lineker, at the inception of the J-League; in Spain, at the Bernabéu stadium, home of Real Madrid; and in Greece, where he ran the line when AC Milan beat Barcelona in the European Cup final three years ago.

Tbilisi, where he took charge of the European championship qualifying tie between Georgia and Germany, also proved enlightening. "Leading up to the game, everywhere was dark," he said. "You could see candles burning in the houses. Apparently, all the electricity had been turned off to conserve energy for the floodlights."

Bodenham lives alone, except for the squawking seagulls, and does not have a job. Though he once worked as an articled clerk and an insurance agent, shrewd property deals now allow him to exist in harmony with his bank. "I bought and sold at the right time," he said. "Then I got out."

He enjoys the solitude, though occasionally provides bed-and-breakfast for friends. "I've got good neighbours and people pop down to see me quite a bit," he said. Fellow Premiership referees have been known to seek sanctuary at Heron Creek, away from the glare of the action replay.

Cricket and horse racing, though he rarely bets, consume his idle moments. A talented wicketkeeper-batsman in his youth — "I had a good pair of hands" — he spent two years as groundsman for Sussex CCC and was once twelfth man for a tour match against Barbados. He also treasures his 1903 Oldsmobile, which is worth £25,000 and looked after by Auntie Betty in Brighton, and takes it out for a 14mph spin when he can.

Driving his Volvo is more tiresome — Southampton, at 330 miles the round trip, is his nearest "home" fixture — yet Bodenham prefers it to travelling by rail. "I was going to Newcastle last year and a bloke held up the buffet car," he said. "He put a gun to the steward's head, took the cash and went back to his seat. I don't know whether he was drunk or mad, but I've since gone by road."

Looe is coming alive, the holiday season almost here, and somebody has already scrawled "Stuff the sleazy Tories!" on the train into town. Yet it still retains its charm, its tranquility; a soothing antidote to Bodenham's Premiership existence. "Stress doesn't really worry me, I don't feel the pressure, but it's always nice to come back here," he said.

MARC HILL

Bodenham prepares for the Coca-Cola Cup final by relaxing in Looe — the perfect antidote to big-match anxieties

From Torquay to Tokyo, an official's job is not an easy one

Tiverton brought down to earth in their pursuit of perfection

David Powell witnesses sad ending of a long record of success on the pitch

The players were back in the dressing-rooms after the game and Alan Morgan, the visitors' physiotherapist, was standing outside the door. As he looked across the ground, there was frustration in his voice. "We have just won the league championship tonight and it's dead," he said. "Everybody is down. I don't see why everybody is down."

Perfection is a rare accomplishment and few get close to feeling its vibration. Even fewer experience it. The 147 break in snooker, the nine-dart finish, six sixes off an over, the 12 successive strikes in tenpin bowling that make a maximum 300, seven wins in a seven-race programme, Frankie Dettori style. For 104 years, football clubs in the Western League have striven for perfection, the 100 per cent winning record, without success.

This season, though, Tiverton Town, have been not just the talk of the town, but the talk of the south-west. Their league record, as they prepared to face Taunton Town on Wednesday night, was played 26, won 26. Thirty consecutive Screwfix Direct Western League victories, including four at the end of last season.

The 26 successive wins is a league record. Closest to perfection were Bideford, in 1949-50, when, in the third division, they won 19, drew one and lost none.

If there was one fixture likely to stand in the way of Tiverton winning all 34 league matches in a season, it was Taunton away. Taunton, the champions, were still, theoretically, in with a chance of retaining their title, eight points behind, though having played three games more. Another 20 points separated second from third.

At half-time, a father pointed out Hale-Bopp to his son. He might have been pointing the way of Tiverton's record, for it was about to disappear into the night sky. After another 45 minutes play, Taunton were celebrating a 2-2 draw.

A draw, however, was enough to remove Taunton from the championship betting. For Alan Morgan, Martyn Rogers, the Tiverton manager, and his players, it was a satisfying 90 minutes work. "The league title is almost ours," Rogers said.

Two wins from their last seven games and Rogers will take a third championship in four years. No other Tiverton manager has won it even once. That, though, was no cause for celebration among the Tiverton supporters, who left quietly, sad at the loss of their record.

"They are disappointed we have not won," Rogers said. "When you have won 26 on the trot, they are desperate for the maximum 34 wins."

Rogers was a full back in the Exeter City team that defeated Newcastle United 4-0 in the 1980-81 FA Cup at St James Park [south-west]. He then found himself defending against Hoddle and Ardiles in the quarter-finals, but a 2-0 defeat left his Wembley dream unfulfilled.

Fulfilment came 12 years later when Rogers took Tiverton to Wembley in the FA Vase. Once again Tiverton will not be promoted to the Dr Martens League, because their ground is not up to standard. Rogers, the commercial manager as well as football manager, said that plans were in hand to build a new stand but, even when the ground is ready, the club will stay in the Western League until it can be sure of its finances.

"My main objective is to get to the Vase final again," Rogers said. "If we move up, I will not be able to do that." To the football fan, if there is one thing better than perfection, it is seeing your team walk out at Wembley.

Dagenham driven by Wembley dream

Non-League Football
by Walter Gammie

THE semi-finals of the FA Umbro Trophy, the first legs of which are held tomorrow, will guarantee the first Wembley appearance of a side from outside the Vauxhall Conference since Leek Town lost to Barrow in 1990.

While one match is a heavyweight, all-Conference confrontation — Stevenage Borough, whose priorities remain confused after the defeats of Kidderminster Harriers and Macclesfield Town on Monday kept their league hopes alive, taking on Woking — the other match pits Dagenham and Redbridge against Gloucester City.

Dagenham lost their Conference place last season and have been forced to watch from a distance as Yeovil Town and Enfield turned the Icis League into a private contest. Gloucester, meanwhile, as usual in recent seasons, have been challenging at the head of the Dr Martens League, where second place would be good enough to gain promotion because Gresley Rovers, the long-time leaders, will not have their new ground ready in time.

For Dave Andrews, who became chairman of Leytonstone in 1974 and has continued in the position throughout the club's evolution into Dagenham and Redbridge, said: "I feel we are now settled as a club. The Trophy semi-final appearance is a bonus, not something that the committee or the spectators could have expected. It's down to Ted Hardy and the players. If I was one of them [the players] I'd run myself into a standstill, because what's in front of them could be a fantastic day."

Andrews should know. The former England amateur international appeared in the Walthamstow Avenue and Leytonstone FA Amateur Cup-winning teams at Wembley in 1958 and 1968.

SQUASH

Harris's progress intercepted by Jenson

By Colin McQuillan

DAN JENSON, the long-limbed Australian who beat the fourth seed, Simon Parke, in the first round of the Leekes British Open Championship in Cardiff on Tuesday, took his elegant game to new heights yesterday to remove Del Harris 15-5, 12-15, 10-15, 15-14, 17-14 in the second round.

Rarely can such large players — each stands over 6ft — have produced such a close contest. Harris, 27, from Essex, held two match points at the end of the fourth game only to have Jenson, 21, fight his way back into the match with a feather-light backhand drop shot played at full stretch in the single-point tie-break.

The Australian reached match point at 14-12 in the fifth game, only for Harris to force another tie-break with an inspired forehand drop volley, executed on the turn at the end of an exhausting rally, and an astonishing backhand retrieval that he somehow converted into a cross-court passing shot. Jenson went on to secure victory thanks to an unforced error by Harris and a beautifully disguised backhand drop shot that was followed by a penalty stroke as Harris failed to stay clear of the Australian's forehand backswing in mid-court.

To see these huge men speeding around such a tight environment — spinning to cover skilfully disguised deliveries, lunging and recovering with extraordinary athleticism — was to see men's fighting squash at its best.

To further enhance the occasion, Jenson is in the old-fashioned mode of Australian sport, responding with hardly a grimace when faced with the harshest of decisions, and Harris was, for the most part, too intensely involved to indulge the truculance that sometimes mars his performance.

In the quarter-finals, Jenson will meet Ahmed Barada, the improving teenager from Egypt, who yesterday dealt firmly with Stephen Meades, of Berkshire, to win 15-9, 15-9, 15-9 in 45 minutes.

RESULTS: Men: Second round: D Jenson (Aus) bt D Harris (GB) 15-5, 12-15, 10-15, 15-14, 17-14; A Barada (Egypt) bt S Meades (GB) 15-9, 15-9, 15-9. Women: Second round: C Owens (Aus) bt P Beams (NZ) 9-2, 9-4, 9-1; M Martin (Aus) bt R Cooper (Aus) 9-3, 9-7, 9-5.

Beckham in line for a double

DAVID BECKHAM, the Manchester United and England midfield player, could achieve a remarkable double after learning yesterday that he had been nominated as both player and young player of the year in the Professional Footballers' Association awards. The last player to win both in the same season was Andy Gray, of Aston Villa, in 1977.

Joining Beckham and Roy Keane, his United team-mate, in the senior nominees are Gianfranco Zola, Chelsea's Italian forward, Alan Shearer, in spite of his injury problems, Ian Wright and Steve McManaman. The awards will be made on Sunday, April 13.

SHORTLISTS: Player of the Year: D Beckham, R Keane (both Manchester United), S McManaman (Liverpool), A Shearer (Newcastle), I Wright (Arsenal), G Zola (Chelsea). Young Player of the Year: Beckham, O G Solskjaer (both Manchester United), R Fowler (Liverpool), E Heskey (Leicester), C Perry (Wimbledon), P Vieira (Arsenal).

Sailing: The British team representing the Royal Dorset Yacht Club's planned challenge for the America's Cup in 2000 started brightly in a Road To America's Cup regatta in Auckland, with two wins in its first two races. The British crew, led by Chris Law, beat Ed Baird's *Young America* in their first race yesterday and followed it up with a win over Dawn Riley's *America True* team.

☐ **Boxing:** Lennox Lewis, Britain's World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, could face Henry Akinwande in London on the eve of the Wimbledon men's singles final. If Lewis' promoters, Panos Eliades and the New Jersey-based Dino Duva, of Main Events, win the purse bidding to be held in Las Vegas next Wednesday, a contest date of July 5 is their main target.

☐ **Rowing:** Peter Haining, the Auriol Kensington rower, is unlikely to defend his Scullers Head title on Saturday. He is suffering from a severe cough and cold.

Whatever you think you can do on the Internet, you probably can – if you know where to start. But it's a very big 'if.'

However, if your school subscribes to *The TES* Internet Service, for just £99 per year, you'll be guided to all the best educational sites on the Web as they come on-line.

We also provide Ofsted reports, a searchable archive of every *TES* article and review since October 1994, and our Internet staff room discussion forum. To make sure your school doesn't get left behind, look us up free at **http://www.tes.co.uk**, or call us today on 01708 378 379.

TES
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
INTERNET SERVICE YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE IT.

هكذا من الأعلى

GOLF

Johansson loses way on first step of venture

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN NEW ORLEANS

GREG NORMAN, who has not played in New Orleans since 1993, wasted no time in making his presence felt in this part of Louisiana in the first round of the Freeport McDermott Classic yesterday. It is not often that someone as distinguished as Norman starts as early as 7.36 — he was in the fifth group — and to prove that he was well and truly awake, Norman birdied three of his first four holes and completed his front nine in 33, three under par, finishing with a 67.

This was a much better start than that made by Per-Ulrik Johansson. The Swede, who will be the fourth from his country to compete in the Masters, went to the turn at English Turn Golf and Country Club in 40, four over par.

Johansson reeled home in 42 for an 82, 17 strokes worse than Larry Rinker and Scott McCarron, the early leaders. It was one of the worst rounds of Johansson's career as a professional.

He had a double bogey on the 1st, his tenth, and at the end he wore the dazed look of a man who had been involved in a car accident. "I missed it in the wrong places all the time," he said. "I am rusty, but actually I felt pretty good on the driving range. I knew I hadn't played very much, but I didnot expect it to be as bad as this. I have to work at it."

On Wednesday, Sam Torrance had been standing at the door to the clubhouse when Johansson went past on his way to the practice ground, his clubs slung in a bag over his shoulder. "Got enough woods there, Per?" Torrance said. Johansson had at least six in his bag. "I'm trying out some new ones," he said.

Johansson, a Ryder Cup player at Oak Hill two years ago, needs the practice. Though he spent one month in Phoenix early in the year practising, he is short of competition. This is only his third tournament of the year after finishing twentieth in Dubai in early March and sixth in Morocco a week later.

He had intended to play in Portugal but, when his girlfriend was injured in a car accident, he returned to Sweden for three weeks while she recuperated. He spent last weekend in Orlando practising under the eye of David Leadbetter, with whom he has worked since 1991.

Johansson is looking forward to competing for the first time at Augusta, where he and Jesper Parnevik will make up the Swedish complement this year. He has been to the famous tournament twice before, once as a spectator when he was a student in the United States and once as a commentator for Swedish television.

"I made an arrangement with Nick Faldo to play a practice round with him on Monday or Tuesday at Augusta," Johansson said. "He is a good guy, though it is hard to get to know him. I like fast greens and I expect I shall spend most of my time on the greens. What I would like to know from Nick are the pin positions. I want him to tell me where I cannot go and where not to miss it."

José Maria Olazábal, like Torrance, was not due to tee off until later in the day. Olazábal's improvement had continued when he played well in the pro-am. Every step that he takes marks a step towards recovery and, to judge by the way he is playing, it is no wonder he wears a smile on his face most of the time these days.

Ben Crenshaw, on the other hand, has had nothing to smile about all year. The champion here in 1994, when Olazábal finished second and went on to victory in the Masters, Crenshaw has had more rounds in the 80s (two) than in the 60s (one) and has not won a penny this year — the worst start of his 23 years as a professional.

"It has been bleak," Crenshaw said. "It's like Bobby Jones said: 'I feel like I am pulling on a slack rope'. It hurts me to perform the way I am. It is getting to me. I am asking myself: 'What the hell is going on?'"

At lunchtime on Tuesday, Crenshaw felt more optimistic. "Tom Watson and Butch [Harmon] discovered a flaw on the practice ground at Jacksonville," Crenshaw said, in his soft voice that you have to strain to hear. "I have been hitting it too much with my hands, making a slap at it. They got me to make a fuller turn and I feel much more confident now."

Harris, the subject of rugby league's second-highest transfer fee, gets used to his new kit and surroundings yesterday. Photograph: Andrew Varley

Harris puts future in hands of Leeds

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

LEEDS Rhinos are trusting that their £325,000 purchase of Iestyn Harris yesterday — rugby league's second-biggest transfer fee — will have the same impact as that of another record signing by the club, 45 years ago. Lewis Jones was also a young gifted Welshman. Appropriately, he was at Headingley yesterday to greet the arrival of Harris from Warrington Wolves.

Jones, the Leeds record points-scorer in a prodigious 12-year career, summed up a statement of intent by Leeds in acquiring potentially the best and most creative talent of his generation. "We're short of individual players in this day and age. Iestyn is a brilliant individual and Leeds are the biggest club," he said.

After nine months of rancour at Warrington, during which he was banned from the club twice and doubted whether he would play again, Harris was relieved to have his future finally settled by a five-year contract with Leeds. He is in the squad for the visit of Wigan Warriors in the Stones Super League tonight.

Harris, 22, fell out with Warrington over his best position. He sees himself as a stand-off half, but Dean Bell, the Leeds coach, was giving nothing away on that point. "I have a preference, but I'll play anywhere I'm placed," Harris said. "I've a point to prove — to Warrington mainly, but also to myself."

Lewis, then the golden boy of Welsh rugby union, received £6,000 from Leeds for his move from Llanelli in 1952. Harris, the 1995 international player of the year, resisted overtures from union and had his heart set on joining St Helens before the Super League champions withdrew from a deal last week and Leeds came up with a package acceptable to Warrington — worth £350,000 overall, with Danny Sculthorpe, an academy centre, moving from Headingley to Wilderspool.

The package is dwarfed by the £500,000 cash-and-players deal made by St Helens for Paul Newlove in 1995, but is second in money-only terms to the £440,000 Wigan paid Widnes for Martin Offiah in 1992. It comfortably beats the club record £250,000 fee, Leeds paid to Wigan six years ago for Ellery Hanley.

Harris has made two appearances for Warrington this season. In his only sustained playing spell since last summer, his performances on Great Britain's South Pacific tour last October were noticeably affected by the wrangling at Warrington. "I've kept myself fit. Now all I want to do is get out on the field again."

In a day of comings and goings at Warrington, Darryl Van de Velde arrived to take over the coaching position vacated last week by another Australian, John Dorahy. In an ironic twist, John Joiner, who took over at Castleford from Van de Velde in 1993, resigned yesterday by mutual consent with the club's board, ending a 25-year association at Wheldon Road.

It is only three years since Joiner was coach of the year, but Castleford have suffered a remorseless decline as leading players have left and not been replaced. They are without a win at the bottom of the Super League.

On the coaching merry-go-round, Van de Velde is the third new face in the Super League since the season began, after the appointments by Wigan and Halifax of Eric Hughes and John Pendlebury respectively.

In the fall-out from an angry Challenge Cup semi-final last Saturday, the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee last night suspended Brian McDermott for four matches for punching, but the Bradford Bulls prop will be available for the final. Barrie McDermott is appealing against a three-match ban for a high tackle and Terry Newton, another Leeds player, was warned for misconduct.

SNOOKER: FORMER WORLD CHAMPION TWO WINS AWAY FROM POCKETING HIS 29TH RANKING TITLE

Davis guarantees return to semi-final stage

BY PHIL YATES

STEVE DAVIS, whose appetite for competitive involvement remains strong despite 17 years at or near the apex of his profession, reached the semi-finals of a world ranking event for the first time in 26 months at the British Open in Plymouth yesterday.

Davis moved to within two victories of his 72nd title by beating Alan McManus 5-2 and, when he faces Dave Harold or Stephen Hendry tomorrow, he will be appearing at the penultimate stage of a ranking tournament for the first time since the 1995 International Open, when he was runner-up to John Higgins. "I am still really enjoying my snooker and I love rising to a challenge," Davis, who at Wembley in February won the Benson and Hedges Masters, an invitation tournament that does not count for ranking purposes, said.

McManus led 2-0 yesterday but runs of 40 and 51 helped Davis to draw level. Mcmanus was 33-0 ahead in the fifth frame when he misjudged a red and Davis pounced with a 61 clearance. The methodical Scot held a 54-43 advantage late in the sixth, but fell 4-2 adrift when Davis was presented with the opportunity to fashion another clearance by his opponent's ineffective safety shot on the last red. After two such setbacks it was hardly surprising that McManus was unable to prevent Davis completing victory by winning the seventh frame, this time on the blue.

"I am sure it will be one of those days Alan wants to forget in a hurry. From my point of view, though, it's a very pleasing result indeed," Davis said. He has not added to a total of 28 titles in world-ranking events since winning the Regal Welsh Open im 1995.

Mark Williams repeated the form that he showed when whitewashing Nick Pearce by sweeping aside Tony Drago, of Malta, 5-1 in a match that was all over in 61 minutes and was an entertaining showcase for the Welshman's unparalleled potting from distance.

On four occasions during the second frame, Williams surrendered position. Four times he recovered with pots bordering on the outrageous in constructing a break of 83. Further contributions of 38, 37, 69 and 89 helped finish off Drago, who had beaten Nigel Bond, the holder, by 5-1 to reach this stage.

Williams, who has moved up from sixteenth to sixth in the provisional rankings this season, now plays either Peter Ebdon or Michael Judge.

ATHLETICS

McColgan will face formidable challenge

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE closer Liz McColgan gets to defending her Flora London Marathon title on Sunday week, the harder her job looks. Not that there is anything wrong with McColgan's form, it is just that the field is stacking up against her.

Manuela Machado, the European and world champion, was added to an already formidable line-up yesterday. Among the sub-plots will be a meeting between the gold and silver medal-winners from the 1995 world championships in Gothenburg — Machado and Anuta Catuna.

Machado, from Portugal, and Catuna, from Romania, will lead the overseas challenge, with Ren Xiujuan, from China, the half-marathon world champion, and Joyce Chepchumba, from Kenya, runner-up to McColgan in London last year. Marian Sutton, from Cornwall, the Chicago Marathon champion, will help McColgan to defend the home front.

On her only previous appearance in London, in 1995, Machado finished second to Malgorzata Sobanska, from Poland. Not only does Machado bring a smile to the marathon — nine times she blew kisses to the crowd as she celebrated her European championship win in Helsinki — but also an attacking style. Brave front-running in the 1993 world championship probably cost her the gold.

In Helsinki, Machado's victory came after she struck for home from halfway but, in London the next year, her front-running went unrewarded as Sobanska pulled away in the final mile. In Gothenburg, Machado covered the last six miles alone.

Last year, Machado failed to win either of her marathons, finishing seventh at the Atlanta Olympics and second in Tokyo. Like McColgan, Machado's recent form is sound.

☐ Kelly Holmes was a convincing winner of the 800 metres in an IAAF grand prix II meeting in Pretoria, on Wednesday evening. Her victory, in 2min 01.11sec, took her clear of Letitia Vriesde, from Surinam, who denied Holmes the silver medal in the 800 metres at the 1995 world championships. Another impressive British winner was Iwan Thomas, with 45.00sec in the 400 metres.

In *The Times* on Monday: a 16-page colour guide to the Flora London Marathon

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal 4 St Louis 1, Cincinnati 5 Colorado 3; Florida 4 Chicago 3; Los Angeles 5 Philadelphia 1; Houston 4 Atlanta 3, San Diego 6 New York 5 (12inns)
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore 4 Kansas City 2; Toronto 6 Chicago 1; Minnesota 7 Detroit 6, Boston 6 Anaheim 5; Cleveland 9 Oakland 7, New York 16 Seattle 2.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland 96 Boston 87; Toronto 112 Philadelphia 90: Charlotte 95 Atlanta 84: Minnesota 94 New Jersey 89; Detroit 98 San Antonio 92; Utah 118 Sacramento 87; Phoenix 109 Houston 96; Los Angeles Lakers 110 Denver 85
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester 78 Sheffield 60; Thames Valley 107 London 122

BOWLS

SWANSEA: CIS (Insurance) Welsh indoor pairs championship: Quarter-finals: D Harding and J Greenslade (Cardiff) bt N Rees and B Kingdon (Llanelli) 22-15, J Webley and N Leigh (Cardiff) bt G Spiller and A Withers (Rhondda) 18-17 (after extra end); B Davies and P Carpenter (Merthyr Tydfil) bt R Morgan and G Ellis (Bro Ddyfi) 29-8; S Rees and J Price (Swansea) bt T Sullivan and N Williams (Swansea) 27-7.

CRICKET

Third one-day international match

South Africa v Australia

NEWLANDS (Australia won toss): South Africa beat Australia by 46 runs to lead seven match series 2-1

SOUTH AFRICA

L Koen c Di Venuto b Dale	22
H H Gibbs b Gillespie	28
J H Kallis b Warne	23
D J Cullinan run out	12
J N Rhodes not out	83
*W J Cronje b Blewett	3
D Crookes c Healy b Gillespie	18
S M Pollock lbw b Warne	21
†D J Richardson run out	4
R Bryson not out	17
Extras (11lb, 1nb, 2w)	14
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	245

A A Donald did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-52, 2-53, 3-80, 4-101, 5-106, 6-176, 7-216, 8-222
BOWLING: Reiffel 10-0-47-0 (1nb); Dale 10-1-26-1, Gillespie 10-1-39-2; Warne 10-0-64-2 (1w), G Blewett 6-0-30-1 (1w); Bevan 4-0-28-0

AUSTRALIA

M J di Venuto run out	13
G S Blewett b Pollock	6
S G Law c Richardson b Bryson	4
S R Waugh b Bryson	0
M G Bevan c Kallis b Pollock	82
*†I A Healey c and b Crookes	25
S K Warne run out	23
P R Reiffel run out	6
A C Dale not out	12
J N Gillespie c Gibbs b Donald	17
Extras (b 1, lb 3, w 6, nb 1)	11
Total (9 wkts, 44.5 overs)	199

M E Waugh did not bat, injured
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-25, 3-25, 4-25, 5-94, 6-136, 7-157, 8-170
BOWLING. Pollock 8-0-35-2; Bryson 9-0-34-2; Donald 7.5-1-25-1; Kallis 6-0-30-0; Crookes 10-0-42-1, Cronje 4-0-29-0.

Sharjah Cup

Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe

SHARJAH (Sri Lanka won toss): Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by seven wickets

ZIMBABWE

*†G W Flower b Zoysa	12
C B Wishart run out	32
A D R Campbell lbw b Vaas	2
D Viljoen st Kaluwitharana b Dharmasena	17
A Flower b Muralitharan	38
S V Carlisle c Tillekeratne b Muralitharan	6
P A Strang b Vaas	38
H H Streak run out	11
E A Brandes not out	10
A Whittall c Kaluwitharana b Vaas	4
E Matambanadzo not out	0
Extras (b 3, lb 7, w 4, nb 3)	17
Total (9 wkts)	187

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-34, 3-65, 4-77, 5-100, 6-139, 7-169, 8-180, 9-186.
BOWLING: Vaas 10-2-25-3, Zoysa 10-0-46-1, Muralitharan 10-1-39-2, de Silva 10-0-34-0. Dharmasena 10-0-33-1

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya c Wishart b Strang	56
†R S Kaluwitharana c Wishart b Brandes	0
M Atapattu not out	52
A de Silva c Strang b G Flower	60
*A Ranatunga not out	0
Extras (b 6, lb 3, w 11)	20
Total (3 wkts, 45.4 overs)	188

R S Mahanama, H P Tillekeratne, H D P K Dharmasena, W P U J C Vaas, N Zoysa and M Muralitharan did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS 1-1, 2-80, 3-187
BOWLING: Brandes 7-0-33-1, Matambanadzo 7-0-38-0; Whittall 10-0-30-0, Streak 7-1-22-0; Strang 10-0-41-1; G W Flower 4.4-0-15-1
Men-of-the-match: A de Silva

Umpires: S Dunn (New Zealand) and D Cowie (New Zealand)

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

WORLD CUP: European qualifying matches: Group one: Croatia 3 Slovenia 3 (in Split) Poland 0 Italy 0 Group three: Azerbaijan 1 Finland 2 (in Baku). Group four: Scotland 2 Austria 0. Czech Republic 1 Yugoslavia 2 (in Prague) Group seven: Turkey 1 Holland 0 (in Bursa) Group eight: Lithuania 0 Romania 1 Group nine: Albania 2 Germany 3 (in Granada, Spain) South American zone. Paraguay 2 Colombia 1 (in Asuncion). Bolivia 2 Argentina 1 (in La Paz). Uruguay 3 Venezuela 1 (in Montevideo); Peru 1 Ecuador 1 (in Lima)
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Millwall 1 York 1
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Southport 2 Kettering 2
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Sheppey 0 Chatham 0.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn 1 Stoke 0; Bolton 1 Everton 2; Manchester United 1 Oldham 1 First division: Aston Villa 2 Sunderland 2. Blackpool 0 Leicester 3; Coventry 4 West Bromwich 0 Second division: Burnley 0 Rotherham 0; Carlisle 4 Grimsby 2; Shrewsbury 1 Barnsley 3; Stockport 2 Mansfield 0, Wrexham 2 Manchester City 4
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland 2 Bamber Bridge 0; Gainsborough 1 Buxton 1; Winsford 0 Runcorn 0 President's Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Blyth Spartans 1 Radcliffe 0 (Blyth Spartans win 1-0 on agg)
ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromley 1 Dagenham and Redbridge 0; Yeading 2 Boreham Wood 1 Second division: Chalfont St Peter 2 Collier Row and Romford 2.
GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: League Cup: Semi-final: Second leg: Barry 2 Ton Pentre 0 (agg 3-3: Barry win on away goal rule)
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City 0 Charlton 1; Swansea 0 Ipswich 1; Wimbledon 2 Bournemouth 1
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Morpeth 0 South Shields 1, Whickham 2 Crook 4.
FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round replay: Watford 1 Luton 1 (Luton won 5-3 on penalties)
HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Endsleigh 2 Carterton 1; Lambourn Sports 0 Almondsbury 4.
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Taunton 2 Tiverton 2.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Sheffield 1 Hucknall 1
ENGLISH SCHOOLS FESTIVALS: Isle of Wight: East Cornwall 0 Huntingdon 0; Bury 5 Derby 0; Leeds 3 Newham 1. Hull 1 Gosport 0; Bishop Auckland 2 Peterborough 2; Gravesham 6 Havant 2, Plymouth 2 Cambridge 0: Wellingborough 4 Lowestoft 1. Doncaster 1 Vale of White Horse 3, Blackburn 0 Reading 3; Isle of Wight 2 Rotherham 3, Bridgwater 0 Manchester 4; Bradford 7 Yeovil 0, East Berks 1 Sheffield 1 Pakefield: Kent 2 Shropshire 3: Hampshire 3 West Yorkshire 2; Dorset 1 Worcestershire 0; Berkshire 0 Lincolnshire 3; Durham 2 Cheshire 0; Merseyside B 3 Surrey B 1, Somerset B 1 Essex B 2; Surrey 2 Cornwall 0, Essex 1 Merseyside 2; North Yorkshire 0 Somerset 1; West Midlands 0 Northumberland 1; Shropshire B 5 Hampshire B 3. North Tyneside: Bradford 2 Chester-le-Street A 0. Oldham 0 South Shields 3; Wallsend 6 Chester-le-Street B 1. Luton 2 Hartlepool A 1: Vale of White Horse 2 Sunderland 1; Gloucester 3 Kelloe 1: Rother Valley 6 Hartlepool B 0; Manchester 2 Peterlee 2; Leeds 1 North Tyneside 4: Newham 1 Newcastle A 2; Rotherham 1 Newcastle B 2 Jersey: Thurrock 1 Plymouth 0. West Cornwall 2 Gravesham 2. Hackney 0 Gloucester 4. Redbridge 0 Newbury 2; Reading 6 Barking1; Orpington 1 Jersey 1; Bishop Auckland 1 Chiltern 5; Tower Hamlets 6 South Oxford 0
INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Hungary 1 Australia 3 (in Budapest), Switzerland 1 Latvia 0 (in Lucerne); France 1 Sweden 0 (in Paris), Brazil 4 Chile 0 (in Brasilia).
SPANISH CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Celta Vigo 1 Betis 1 (Betis win 2-1 on agg)
PORTUGUESE CUP: Quarter-final: Braga 0 FC Porto 2.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Dallas 5 New York Islanders 4, Montreal 4 Hartford 1: Ottawa 2 Buffalo 0; Toronto 3 Florida 1: Colorado 5 Calgary 1: Anaheim 5 San Jose 5 (OT)

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Leicester 18 Wasps 12; Sale 11 Bath 5. Third division: Rosslyn Park 29 Reading 25
WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Ebbw Vale 16 Llanelli 16; Bridgend 18 Swansea 25

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg (Sydney to Cape Town, positions at 14 00GMT yesterday, with mile to Cape Town): 1, Group 4 1,060; 2, Concert 1,077; 3, Toshiba Wave Warrior 1,087, 4, Commercial Union 1,137; 5, Motorola 1,160; 6, Save The Children 1,188; 7, Global Teamwork 1,206; 8, 3Com 1, 226, 9, Time & Tide 1,301. 10, Ocean Rover 1,305; 11, Nuclear Electric 1,353, 12, Courtaulds Int 1,481; 13, Pause To Remember 1,562; 14, Heath Insured II 1,576.

SNOOKER

PLYMOUTH: British Open: Third round: A McManus (Scot) bt W Thorne (Eng) 5-2; S Davis (Eng) beat M Clark (Eng) 5-4; M Williams (Wales) bt G Wilkinson (Eng) 5-3; A Drago (Malta) bt N Bond (Eng) 5-1; P Ebdon (Eng) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 5-1 Quarter-finals: S Davis (Eng) bt A McManus (Scot) 5-2; M Williams (Wales) bt T Drago (Malta) 5-1.

SPEEDWAY

STAR CUP: Poole 53 King's Lynn 37. Premier League Cup: Hull 50 Berwick 39; Long Eaton 45 Oxford 45.

SQUASH

CARDIFF: Leekes British Open: Men: Second round: P Nicol (Scot) bt A Hill (Aus) 15-5, 10-15, 15-8, 15-12; B Martin (Aus) bt M Cairns (Eng), 15-7, 9-15, 15-9, 15-11 Women: Second round: L Charman (Eng) bt S Horner (Eng) 9-3, 9-3, 8-10, 5-9, 9-1. S Wright (Eng) bt R Macree (Eng) 7-9, 3-9, 9-4, 9-6, 9-4; S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt C Nitch (SA) 9-4, 9-2, 9-1; L Irving (Aus) bt N Grainger (SA) 9-4, 7-9, 9-3, 9-4

TENNIS

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina: Women's tournament: Second round: A Sánchez Vicano (Sp) bt S Pitkowski (Fr) 6-2, 6-2; J Novotna (Cz) bt P Schnyder (Switz) 3-6, 7-5, 6-1; L Davenport (US) bt M de Swardt (SA) 6-2, 6-0; A Huber (Ger) bt L Reymond (US) 6-0, 6-2; I Majoli (Cro) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, B Paulus (Austria) bt V Ruano-Pascual (Sp) 6-4, 6-1; A Coetzer (SA) bt P Suarez (Arg) 4-6, 6-2, 4-0 ret; B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) bt G Leon Garcia (Sp) 6-4, 6-4; W Probst (Ger) w/o M Maleeva (Bul) scr, B Schett (Austria) bt A Fusai (Fr) 6-1, 6-0; J Capriati (US) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-1, 6-0. Third round: M Seles (US) bt A Gersi (Cz) 6-2, 7-6

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

RAHAB
(b) A harlot in Jericho with political nous. Two Israelites sent by Joshua to spy out the land took lodging with her. Impressed by the Israelites' victories east of the Jordan, she decided to ingratiate herself with them. She hid the two spies in stalks of flax on her roof and then let them down by a rope out of her window which was in the city's wall. In return, she marked her house with a scarlet thread. So she and her family were spared when the city was taken.

ABIGAIL
(c) The beautiful wife of the churlish Nabal, whose rudeness to ten young men sent to him by David brought upon himself an armed raid by David. Abigail did her duty by going out to meet David and diverting him from his murderous purpose. But God then killed Nabal, and so Abigail was free to marry David. The use of her name to denote a lady's maid was popularised by Abigail Hill (Mrs Masham), Queen Anne's favourite.

BARSABAS
(a) Joseph Barsabas was one of the candidates to fill the place among the 12 apostles made vacant by the treason of Judas Iscariot. But the lot fell not on him but on Matthias. Judas Barsabas was sent with Silas by the Christians of Jerusalem to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. After a while, Barsabas returned to Jerusalem, but Silas remained in Antioch and became one of Paul's chief missionary companions.

RHODA
(a) An excitable girl in the house of Mary, mother of John Mark, where a number of Christians were gathered to pray for Peter, apprehended by Herod Agrippa I. When Peter, having escaped from prison, knocked on the garden door, she recognised his voice, but was so bowled over that she ran back with the news instead of letting Peter in. Silly moo!

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... f3! 2 Ne3 (2 gxf3 gxh3 is decisive) 2 ... fxg2 3 Nxg2 gxh3 4 Nf4 h2 5 Ne2+ Ke4 6 Ng3+ Kf3 and Black wins easily.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League
First division
Tranmere v Bradford (7 45)

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Semi-finals: Bohemians v Derry (at Dalymount Park 7.45); Waterford v Shelbourne (at Waterford RSC, 7 45)
FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundalk v Sligo (7.45).
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bootle v Maine Road
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division. Sudbury Wanderers v Sudbury Town Res
SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Isle of Wight Festival: Isle of Wight v Bishop Auckland; Cambridge v Leeds; Huntingdon v Manchester, Lowestoft v Bury. Vale of White Horse v Wirral, Wakefield v East Berkshire, Reading v Derby, Havant v Wellingboro, Bridgewater v Newham, Hull v Gravesham, Gosport v Doncaster, Luton v Blackburn. East Cornwall v Bradford. Sheffield v Plymouth: Rotheram v Yeovil. English Schools Under-19 Festival: Essex v Shropshire; Worcestershire v Northumberland, North Yorkshire v Dorset: Cornwall v West Yorkshire; Hampshire v Merseyside; Somerset v Lincolnshire: Kent v West Midlands: Berkshire v Cheshire; Durham v Surrey (at Pakefield).

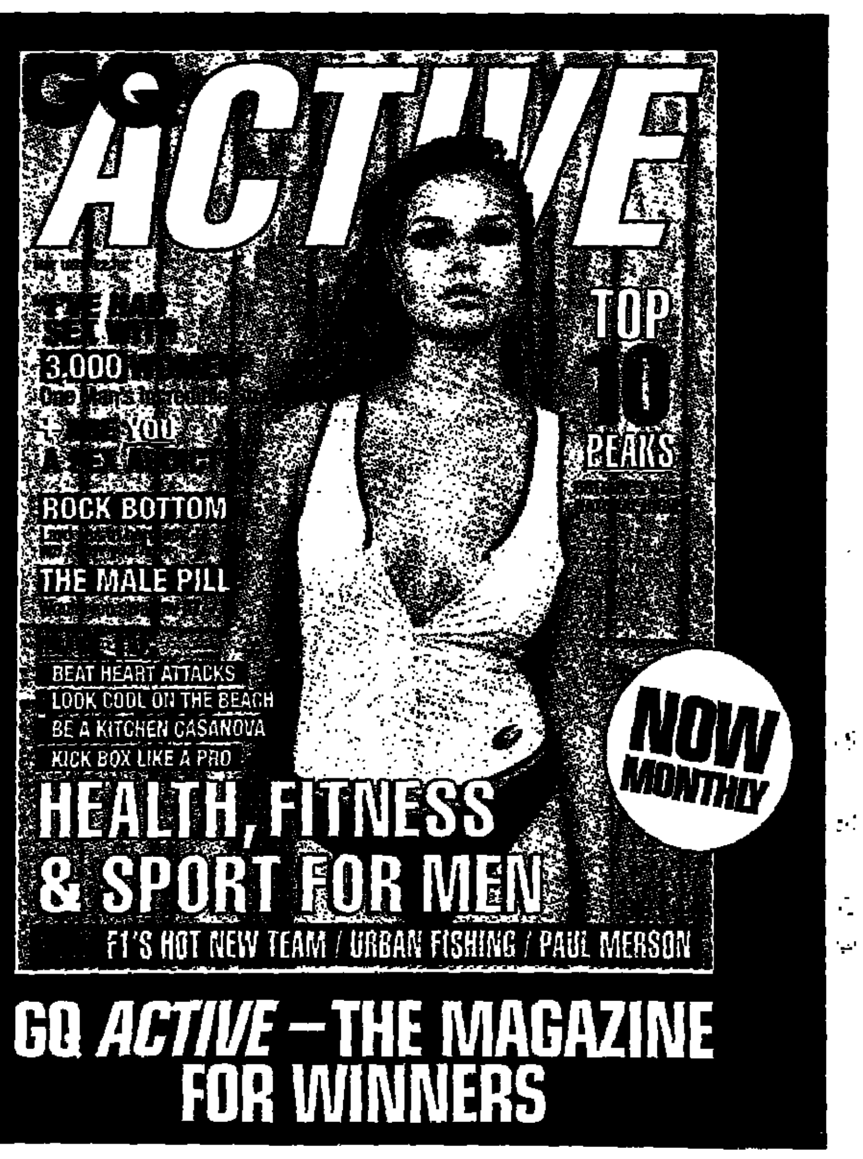
RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League
Leeds v Wigan (7 30)

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Salford v Halifax.

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Club match: Beeston v Loughborough Students (The Stadium, Milton Keynes, 6 0)
SNOOKER: British Open (at Plymouth Pavilions).
SPEEDWAY: NPI Premiership: Peterborough v Wolverhampton (7.30) Speedway Star Cup: Belle Vue v Bradford (7 30) Premier League Knock Out Cup: Arena Essex v Exeter (8.0); Oxford v Long Eaton (7 45) Premier League Challenge: Edinburgh v Glasgow (7.30).
SQUASH: British Open (at Cardiff)
TENNIS: Davis Cup: Euro-Africa zone: Group one: Second round: Great Britain v Zimbabwe (at Crystal Palace).



Opening my eyes to tunnel vision of the true England supporter

LYNNE TRUSS

Kicking and Screaming

SHAUN BOTTERILL / ALLSPORT

Wright, left, and Fowler savour their tear-jerking moment of celebration at Wembley

Just when you think you know something, it turns out that you know nothing at all. After the England v Italy match in February, I made a policy decision. "England fans are animals!" I reported back to my unsurprised superiors. "It was ... it was ghastly!" Last Saturday, therefore, for England v Mexico at Wembley, I crept shamefaced past the bear-pit turnstiles towards the safety of the press box. "Class Traitors and Broken Reeds This Way" flashed in red letters above the door as I pushed it open, but in the interests of dignity I pretended not to notice.

Well, how was I to know that the fans on this occasion would be mostly under-tens? Or that only 48,000 people would turn up, some of them in holiday-mood sombreros? "I don't know why I came here tonight," Stealers Wheel, sang pointedly, on the PA system. "I got a feeling something ain't right." Ho hum. I tapped my pencil on my fancy, privileged desk-top and tried not to look as stupid as I felt. I had assumed the only surreal thing about this match would be the sight of Glenn Hoddle sorting through a bulging file marked "Sick Notes". Yet, here before me were thousands of piping infants waving big sponge hands about, as if it were a panto.

What I still don't know is: what makes an England fan? Were these kiddies on Saturday England yobs in embryo? The natural history of the besotted club supporter is easily understood these days because you can go to see the film *Fever Pitch* and watch the mop-headed Colin Firth hold his breath for 18 years, finally exhaling in 1989 when Arsenal win the championship. You can even temporarily love Arsenal (a bit) on his behalf. Grasping the England phenomenon, however, turns out to be a lot more difficult, because the team doesn't exist in the same way, doesn't have a clubcall hotline or a family membership, and (let's not forget) has traditionally attracted Nazis.

All this has taken me a long time to realise, because during Euro 96 I had no idea of club football and in fact considered it a mere detail. (Nottingham Forest) might appear beside Stuart Pearce's name in the programme, but this information was clearly included only for the benefit of know-alls. In my mind, the priorities were simple. England was Pearce's Team; Nottingham Forest was his day-job. Pairing Sheringham with Shearer in attack held no magic; I merely feared that, with such similar names, they'd be permanently mixed up by the commentators.

But last Saturday, when Ian Wright and Robbie Fowler combined to score the second goal against Mexico, I suddenly saw it from quite the other way about. Wright and Fowler in the same shirts? What sporting miracle was this? The sight of these boys celebrating together was so beautiful I wiped a tear. While the Sheffield Wednesday band played heroically in the stands, players from Arsenal and Liverpool were conspiring together in victory — and good grief, were those lovely lads actually (sniff) *hugging*?

What a mad world sport is, full of phoney enemies and contingent alliances. Liverpool and Arsenal fans are surely trained to hate each other, so how do they cope with a scene like this? Moreover, how are Liverpool fans expected to respond to the climactic 1989 Liverpool v Arsenal match in *Fever Pitch*, shown entirely from Arsenal's point of view? Liverpool's problems in 1989 (which included Hillsborough) are, for the purposes of Arsenal's glorious outcome, completely immaterial. In terms of this story, they must lose, so that others may win.

Well, callous partisanship is clearly what it's all about, which is why fans are so frightening. As a supporter, you can measure your fanaticism by the extent to which the opposing side can suffer injury and ignominy without you caring a bit.

On Saturday, I cared so little about the Mexico team that I didn't even bother to read their names in the programme. As for their charming manager, Bora Milutinovic, I just thought he had an awful coat and a ridiculous haircut. At this rate I'll end up booing other people's national anthems, too.

"Mexico's No 8 is very good," a colleague in the press box told me, helpfully. "Is he?" I answered vaguely, and went back to peering through binoculars at Paul Ince, which was more fun because he was one of ours.

Incidentally, I noticed with grim satisfaction that the programme gave David Batty's club wrongly as Blackburn Rovers. Terrifyingly, I was tempted to point out this error to the chap beside me ("I say! A bit behind the times, this!"), to show off my sporty-girl credentials. Something held me back, however, which proves that there is a God.

I suppose the club v country thing will fall into place at some stage — perhaps when I finally appreciate that the players are individuals. Looked at from this novel angle, players acceptably move from club to club (and from one set of fans to another) yet remain England players — which locates their real loyalty in the national side, after all. But how is this reconciled with the sick-notes in Hoddle's file? "Dear England Coach, Matt cannot come out to play on Saturday because his foot is a bit dicky and, besides, he is needed at home."

On a lighter note, is anyone else entertained, as I am, by the ambiguous phrase "doubtful for England", which accompanies the phenomenon of the wincing, limping national player in the weeks before a match? It somehow always brings to my mind a row of players recruited to *have doubts* or at least to *act doubtfully*, shaking heads, sucking teeth, wagging fingers.

"Adams and Beckham now doubtful for England" run the headlines, and, I see these players swiftly arrange their features to appear plagued by misgiving. "How are you feeling, David?" "Ooh, I feel doubtful for England," he replies, dutifully. "Very doubtful for England indeed."

CRICKET: WEATHER AND POOR ORGANISATION BLAMED FOR TURNING ICC TROPHY INTO LOTTERY

Holland fear damp end to World Cup hopes

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN KUALA LUMPUR

HANS MULDER spent most of the rest day at the ICC Trophy yesterday trying to shore up Holland's crumbling hopes of playing in the 1999 World Cup. Their team manager appealed to the ICC to allow a reserve day for the final round of group matches and for the venue for Holland's game with Bangladesh to be changed to avoid possible crowd trouble from local Bengalis should their team lose.

Both requests were rejected and a subsequent appeal to the other seven teams left in the tournament also failed, although it was more sympathetically received. Mulder is worried that, if Holland's third quarter-final group match against Bangladesh is rained off with no result, his team will be flying home without completing a match in the last eight.

"We have worked hard for three years to get here and we are now in a crazy situation of being knocked out if it rains again without playing a proper quarter-final game," he said.

"What idiot decided to play a World Cup qualifying tournament here in March and April? Look in all the guide books and see when it rains in Malaysia — March and April!" Holland only bowled 23 overs against Ireland on Tuesday and lost on comparative run-rate, then saw the rain fall again on Wednesday, forcing an abandonment when they were 5.2 overs into their reply to Hong Kong's score of 170.

Mulder wants to know why the ICC did not allow two days for the last eight group matches, as will be the case for the semi-finals and finals.

"It doesn't matter about the first round so much because there are only eight or nine serious teams here, the rest are Mickey Mouse sides on a glorified holiday," Mulder said.

He is also astonished that the ICC has scheduled its tournament dinner for the eve of such an important game. "It is in the rules for the ICC Trophy that each team must attend the tournament dinner, so my players are going to be returning to the hotel after midnight and have to be up at six o'clock to travel to the ground," he complained.

"It's crazy organisation. There are people here more interested in meeting the King than playing cricket."

REMAINING FIXTURES: Today: Group E: Kenya v Scotland; Denmark v Canada. Group F: Bangladesh v Holland, Ireland v Hong Kong. April 6: Semi-final: winners group E v runners-up group F. April 8: Semi-final: winners group F v runners-up group E. April 10: third-place play-off. April 12: final.

ARE YOU READY FOR A RUDDLES?

TELEVISION CHOICE

A round we go once more

A Golfer's Travels With Peter Alliss
BBC2, 8.00pm

Peter Alliss may have put on a few pounds since he last presented his golfing entertainment but the formula is still in good shape. Essentially it is a celebrity chat show with the fairway and green replacing the studio sofa and guests who tend not to be drawn from the usual run of chat show fodder. Refreshingly, none of those who appear tonight is there to promote a new book or film. They include Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, who may be a modest golfer but hardly deserves Alliss's somewhat patronising dismissal of her technique. "What a strange game you women play!" was no doubt intended as a jocular aside, but you can sense the feminist outrage. Alliss is, however, impeccably correct with the Duke of York, a relative newcomer to the game but fast reducing his handicap.

The Grand
ITV, 9.00pm

A five-star hotel in Manchester at the end of the First World War is the setting for television's latest excursion into period drama. This is a well-tried genre and *The Grand* shows every sign of sustaining its popularity. Those who remember *Upstairs Downstairs* (currently being repeated on satellite) will find enjoyable echoes in the master-and-servant relationship between the management and the staff. But at the heart of the story is the hotel's precarious financial state and the struggle of the husband and wife owners (Michael Siberry and Julia St John) to keep it afloat. Mark McGann plays the nasty brother who has the money to save the hotel but only on his own outrageous terms. Russell T. Davies's script combines plenty of incident with a feel for the social tensions in a Britain still coming to terms with the horrors of the war.

Silent Witness: Friends Like These
BBC1, 10.00pm

The final two-parter of the current series opens with the discovery of an old woman, battered to death on a piece of waste ground. The corpse is soon on the mortuary slab and under the searching eye of Amanda Burton's Dr Ryan. The camera, thankfully, is more discreet. Peter Lloyd's script is a standard whodunnit, with a suspect (an alcoholic loner with a record of violence) so obvious that you are immediately convinced that he cannot possibly be the murderer. Although Dr Ryan has moved in with Detective Superintendent Ross (Mick Ford), it continues to be the sort of love affair where the couple cannot even shape up for a cuddle before the telephone rings. Television policemen are never allowed to be off duty for long. In that case, you may wonder, why bother to show their private life at all?

Amanda Burton stars (BBC1, 10pm)

Grand National Tales
BBC2, 9.30pm

Tomorrow's 150th Grand National is the cue to rummage in the archives and recall great moments in the company of jockeys, trainers and Desmond Lynam, though not that chap in the bowler hat who failed to start the 1993 race. Even to those who barely follow racing many of the stories will be familiar, though this is no reason for not telling them again. But the film is more than a rehash of Dick Francis and the Devon Loch mystery, Bob Champion coming back triumphantly from cancer and the triple triumph of Red Rum. We meet the man (you may have noticed him) who manages to walk out each year with the jockeys and a solicitor who can solemnly recite where every horse fell since the 1960s. And, not least, there is the chance to relish again David Coleman's wonderful Aintree headgear.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Paths of Inspiration
Radio 2, 7.00pm

During the past few weeks, Trinidad-born Trevor McDonald has been interviewing black men and women whose lives, he says, have influenced millions. Millions of blacks? Millions of blacks *and* whites? Both, I think, and in equal measure. Some of his subjects were proselytisers in the cause of equality between races. Some were fuelled by passion, others not. In this series, McDonald has shown that, either because of his own experience or simply because he is an excellent reporter anyway, he is a thoroughly dependable inquirer into black consciousness. Today he talks to Diana Ross who, in the 1960s, made up a third of the Supremes. She suggests, more than actually declares, the extent of her identification with her fellow blacks.

Hear and Now
Radio 3, 10.00pm

The London Sinfonietta long ago passed the stage where it had to prove it was among the most innovative ensembles in the land. Nonetheless, from time to time, it still exercises musical muscles we didn't suspect it possessed. This concert demonstrates the fact. Recorded as part of the *State of the Nation* weekend in February, at the South Bank in London, it is a fully amplified affair, complete with electric guitars, saxophones, and full drum-kit. If you insist that I identify a highlight, then I will plump for Django Bates's new work, getting its broadcast premiere. It is *Some More Upset*, and Bates's Human Chain instrumentalists join his keyboard and the Sinfonietta in performing it.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am *Mark Radcliffe* **9.00** *Dave Pearce* **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Roger Sanchez — Essential Selection **10.00** One in the Jungle **12.00** Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood **3.00am** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **8.05** Wake Up to Wogan **10.00** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Paths of Inspiration. See Choice (5/5) **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night. From the Corn Exchange, King's Lynn **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** Sheridan Morley **12.05am** Jon Briggs

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five from Aintree: includes the 2.35, 3.10 and 3.45 **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Alan Green's Sportstalk **8.30** Friday Sport. With John Murray. Rugby League: Super League, Leeds v Wigan Tennis: Britain's Davis Cup match against Zimbabwe **10.00** Brian Hayes's Election Night **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** World Today **7.30** Meridian Books **8.15** On the Shelf **8.30** Composer of the Month **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Turning A Tune **9.30** Tommy Vance **10.05** Business **10.15** Live From the Archive **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Sport **11.30** Discovery **12.30** Neighbours **12.45** F.O.O.C **1.05** Business **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Record News **1.45** Sport **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack X-Press **4.05** Sport **4.15** Turning A Tune **4.30** John Peel **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.15** World Today **6.30** Record News **6.45** Sport **7.30** Reports from the Silk Road **8.00** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** John Peel **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **11.30** Meridian Books **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **12.05** Outlook **12.30am** Vintage Chart **1.30** Turning a Tune **1.45** Britain Today **2.430** The Works **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.05** Business **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today **4.45** Off the Shelf

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **7.00** Mike Read **9.00** Solid Gold Classics **10.00** Henry Kelly **1.00pm** Concerto. Carl Czerny (Piano Concerto in A minor, Op 214) **3.00** Nick Bailey **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Mozart (Flute Sonata in B flat major) **8.00** Evening Concert. Berlioz (Harold in Italy); Rodrigo (Concierto de Aranjuez); Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in B flat major, Op 60) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Alan Freeman **12.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew MacGregor. Includes Prokofiev (Overture on Hebrew Themes, Moscow Contemporary Music Ensemble); Schubert (Symphony No 6 in C); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87 No 4); (Debussy (La Mer); Mendelssohn (Overture: The Hebrides, Fingal's Cave); Bach (St John Passion); Bartok (Piano Concerto No 2)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Rameau (Les Fleurs); Haydn (Piano Trio Century); Loewe (Die Lotosblume); Milhaud (Symphony No 1)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Saint-Saëns (Cello Concerto No 1 in A minor); Sibelius (Two Partsongs, Op 65); Larsson (Pastoral Suite, Op 19) Telemann (Die Nacht, Die Tageszeiten); Haydn (Symphony No 101 in DE, Clock); Strauss (Der Rosenkavalier)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Amy Beach. Chris Wines looks at the final years of the composer's life. Includes Beach (Summer in New Hampshire; Five Improvisations; Cabildo, excerpt; Pastorale)
1.00pm News; Bristol Lunchtime Concert. The first of a new series. A concert given last month in St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, by Ian Bostridge, tenor, and Julius Drake, piano. Poulenc (Tel Jour, Telle Nuit); Britten (Winter Words; French Folk Songs)
2.00 Work, Rests and Play. Musicians reveal what it is like to be a member of an orchestra. Includes the BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Andrew Davis. Elgar (Pomp and Circumstance March No 3 in C minor)
2.15 Music Restored Andrew Manze introduces the second of two programmes in which the New London Consort, with Catherine Bott, soprano, Christopher Robson, countertenor, and Michael George, bass-baritone, under Philip Pickett, perform chamber cantatas by Telemann (r)
3.00 Mining the Archive. Leo Black looks at the collection of BBC recordings of the music of Johannes Brahms. Includes performances by Thomas Hemsley, Robert Titze, Pamela Bowden, Jennifer Eddy, Anne Collins, Roger Vignoles, Ernest Lush and James Lockhart
5.00 Music Machine. Sarah Walker returns to Warwick Castle in search of domestic music-making from the Victorian era
5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green. Includes Haydn (The Heavens are Telling, The Creation); Kreisler (Tambourin Chinois); Beethoven (Variations on Rule Britannia); Brahms (Variations on a Theme of Haydn, St Antoni Chorale)
7.30 Royal Scottish National Opera, under Paul Daniel. With John Cushing, clarinet. Live from Usher Hall, Edinburgh. Featuring the world premiere of James MacMillan's clarinet concerto, *Ninian*; Schubert (Overture: Fierrabras) **8.25** Book of the Month: Noam Chomsky — *a Life in Dissent*, by Robert F. Barsky (1/12) **8.45** Concert Part 2. Nielsen (Symphony No 5)
9.30 The Sound of Masks. In the last programme of the series, Sir Peter Hall discusses the masks used in his own productions
9.45 Taking the Wind Out of Opera. Arias from Mozart arranged for wind instruments by Rainer Schottstädt and Steve Martland
10.00 Hear and Now. See Choice
12.15am Composers of the Week: Mozart (r)
1.00 Through the Night. Includes **2.40** Vivaldi (Juditha Triumphans); Lutoslawski (Paganini Variations) **3.40** Schubert and Chopin songs **4.30** Mendelssohn (Symphony No 3)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Racing Pigs and Giant Marrows, by Harry Pearson
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs, with agony aunt Virginia Ironside (r)
9.45 The Road to Delhi, with David Loyn (2/2)
10.00 News; Out of the Black Bag: Women's Troubles. Clare Jenkins looks back at the problems of child bearing in pre-NHS Britain, including what to do with unwanted pregnancies and the process of childbirth itself (2/4)
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Sylvia Horn
11.30 The Natural History Programme. Presented by Joanna Pinnock
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Food Programme. Simon Parkes explores some of London's best, and worst, restaurants to see if it really is the gastronomic capital of the world **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 Classic Serial: The Valley of Fear, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. With Clive Merrison as Holmes and Michael Williams as Watson (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor and his guests
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow assesses a new series of art books and sees an exhibition of three-dimensional art from the 1980s and 1990s at the Hayward Gallery in London
4.45 Short Story: Unknown Lives, by Ron Butlin. Read by Liam Brennan
5.00 PM, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places. David Stafford reveals more ideas for things to do this weekend
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week. Chris Serle presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio and television
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the topical debate from Knighton, Powys. With Margaret Beckett, Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry; Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health; Archy Kirkwood, Liberal Democrat Chief Whip, and Dafydd Wigley, leader of Plaid Cymru
8.50 Lumiere's Children. An exploration of the way art and technology have intertwined over the past century of film. Christopher Cook looks at the transition from silent films to the talkies (r)
9.15 Letter from America. Another slice of life Stateside from Alistair Cooke
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. Nigel Andrew in conversation with Tim Burton, the director of *Mars Attacks*, *Ed Wood* and *Edward Scissorhands* (r)
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sorcerer's Apprentice, by Frank O'Connor. The second of two parts read by Barbara Brennan
11.00 Week Ending. The comedy sketch show with Sally Grace and the team
11.25 Tea Junction, with Patrick Hannan and guests
11.45 Twilight, with Joanna Pinnock (4/5) (r)
12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: The Wasp Factory, By Iain Banks. Read by Joseph McFadden (6/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4:** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.

Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

[illegible]

Nagging suspicion that a star has been born

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Day five of Channel 5, a fitting moment to unveil one of its more credible scheduling weapons. So, for the millions of you who presumably missed **Nancy Lam**, let me fill you in. Nancy Lam is a cook and after last night's debut a television cook. Television cooks mean only one thing: gimmicks.

The problem is finding a new one. She's plumpish, but nothing to rival the *Two Fat Ladies*. She's oriental, which presumably is why BBC2 is defensively running repeats of Ken Hom directly against her. She berates her silent husband and sous-chef, in a manner that Fanny Cradock would undoubtedly approve of; and she's rude to the customers in her restaurant, although surely not even Keith Floyd can have mopped down a diner's glistening brow with the punter's own tie.

So far, so precedented. What does that leave? Born in Singapore to an Indonesian mother and a Chinese father, Lam has an accent that now and again renders her totally incomprehensible (was "yam-yam" an ingredient or a culinary assessment?). But then so, too, did that French-Canadian chef, who occasionally popped up in the afternoon to go four courses with the English language. Then there's her laugh, which is loud and memorable . . . just like Rusty Lee's on TV-am. All of which leaves, I think, only her spectacles, which are big, blue and magically never steam up. Anybody remember any other myopic television chefs? With built-in de-misters?

Lam explained last night that there was nothing wrong with nagging her spouse "He's my husband, I'm allowed to give him a hard time — and he's allowed to give me a hard time too." But not, apparently, on her show. All the much put-upon Ben did was say goodbye. And all the chopping.

The cooking — which one hopes is still the important bit — appeared relatively straightforward and made encouraging use of packets and jars, the sort of thing that Lam repeatedly assured us could be found in "any oriental supermarket". But unless you feel up to mimicking her accent at the counter, it might be a help if one or two of the more exotic ingredients were captioned. As indeed it might be if some of her pearls of oriental wisdom were, too. It's OK to dream when grinding peanuts, but not when cutting carrots. Makes some sort of sense, I suppose.

Which is more than can be said for **Mad About Machines** (Channel 4). I can't quite decide whether it was bad or simply unexpected. Malcolm Hemley, you see, sounded like a man after my own heart — his two passions in life are trees and Dennis lawnmowers. Passion might be a bit strong in my case, but I've been known to hug a hazel or two in my time and ever since a formative experience with a disembodied lawnmower engine at a country show (sans roller, sans blades, it still chugged bravely away) I've been able to see a certain beauty in grass-cutting too. But while I take such pleasures vicariously, Hemley — his Dorset home surrounded by acres of lawned and wood garden — lives them. Cue sunny days, gleaming machines and Peter Gabriel singing "I'm just a lawnmower, you tell me by the way I walk"?

Not a bit. Cue a very mournful and not particularly well shot film, that included the memorable question "Do you ever think about life after your mother dies?" Hemley did, but not much ("I'd have to do my own washing"). He had more important things on his mind: "If I can get most of my raking done today, I will be very pleased."

What Taghi Amirani's film appeared to be suffering from was a bad case of season-lag. Here we were, basking in the sunniest Easter for years and there were Amirani and Hemley lost in the mist and murk of autumn. Somewhere in all that mist and murk they also managed to lose most of the mowers. Hemley apparently has 32 of them, but we saw just two: one that worked splendidly and one — his first machine — that didn't work at all. The rest were hidden away under sacking in a very dark Nissen hut. Not ideal in a film about lawnmowers.

Amirani's film, however, was no longer about lawnmowers. He had been distracted by the obvious pathos potential in a middle-aged man who devotedly nursed his father until his death three years ago and who now lives with his elderly but doting mother. Hemley, like any enthusiast whose interest has become an obsession, was a soft target and surely deserved more than to be cast as a grass-cutting version of J.R. Hartley, as he tried to track down the vital part — an ML Magneto, type CMAK — that would get that first Dennis (a birthday gift from his father) back on the lawns. This being real life, and not an advertisement for *Yellow Pages*, there was no happy ending.

No happy ending either for **Original Sin** (ITV), but certainly a devilishly complicated one. In the best traditions of the genre, the baddie turned out to be the least likely of the original suspects in the inaptly named Innocent House and the motive turned out to be firmly anchored in the past. As we had spent two-and-a-half episodes floundering around in the present, this was a little frustrating — and not just for Commander Dalgliesh.

But while we were left wondering how the guilty party could die in seconds from self-inflicted burns (it always takes hours in *ER* or *Casualty*) and various other eccentricities of plot (why had Esme Carling so conveniently told her young neighbour everything?) there is no doubt that Thursday nights will be all the poorer for having ITV's latest whodunnit so stylishly resolved. Still, dare say there'll be another one along soon.

BBC1

6.00am **Business Breakfast** (44907)

7.00 **BBC Breakfast News** (T) (49365)

9.00 **Breakfast News Extra** (T) (8255839)

9.20 **Style Challenge** (3776704)

9.45 **Kilroy** (2304452)

10.30 **Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (91655)

11.00 **News** (T) and weather (4927487)

11.05 **The Really Useful Show** (9397278)

11.35 **Change That** (6711452)

12.00 **News** (T) **Regional News** and weather (4521655)

12.05pm **Call My Bluff** (5173384)

12.35 **Good Living** (9904655)

1.00 **News** (T) and weather (6122655)

1.35 **Regional News** (50622758)

1.45 **The Weather Show** (39032346)

1.50 **Neighbours** (T) (22969094)

2.15 **Columbo: A Matter of Honour** With Peter Falk as the detective on holiday in a Mexican resort, whose peace is disrupted by a murder involving the world of bullfighting (4810704)

3.30 **Mouse and Mole** (9914346) **3.35** Playdays (6218636) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (6379742) **4.10** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (8309655) **4.35** Clarissa Explains It All (7631655) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5382704) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (8481425)

5.35 **Neighbours** (r) (T) (225181)

6.00 **News** (T) and weather (87)

6.30 **Regional News** (839)

7.00 **Big Break** Snooker stars Steve Davis, David Roe and Alain Robidoux accept Jim Davidson's challenge (T) (2758)

7.30 **Top of the Pops** presented by Mark Radcliff and Marc Riley (T) (723)

8.00 **Porridge** Fletch lands himself in the prison hospital, sharing a ward with old Blanco. Classic comedy, with Ronnie Barker and David Jason (r) (T) (5278)

8.30 **A Question of Sport** Joining David Coleman and team captains Ally McCoist and John Parrott this week are national hunt jockey Richard Dunwoody, world speedway champion Billy Hamill, cricketer Robert Croft and Rangers and Scottish international Stuart McCall (T) (7013)

9.00 **News** (T) and weather (6669)

10.00 CHOICE **Silent Witness** Sam and Peter's unlikely budding romance is put on hold when a brutal and apparently random murder demands both their attention. Amanda Burton and Mick Ford star (428636)

10.50 FILM **High Plains Drifter** (1973) starring and directed by Clint Eastwood. A mysterious stranger rides into Lago, a small frontier town in the American southwest. He is provoked into a fight where he kills three men. The townsfolk beg him to become their sheriff as they live in fear of an armed gang (T) (59555704)

12.30 FILM **The George Raft Story** (1961, b/w) Biography of the Hollywood tough guy, charting his beginnings as a hoofer with gangland connections to his heyday as one of the silver screen's most feared tough guys. Starring Ray Danton. Joseph M. Newman directs (442785)

2.15am **Weather** (3424853)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am **Managing Public Services: All Change?** (2551365) **6.25** The Dynamics of Teams (2563100) **6.50** Bulls, Bears and China Shops (1372177) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (8355278) **7.30** Secret Life of Toys (2830013) **7.45** The Raccoons (4434988) **8.10** Wacky Races (3331810) **8.30** Young People's Specials Andrew (79433) **9.00** Activ-8 (3787810) **9.25** Sweet Valley High (3773617) **9.50** Funnybones (6562365) **10.00** Telletubbies (49407) **10.30** Babar (99297) **11.00** The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (23655)

12.30pm **Working Lunch** (52461) **1.00** Secret Life of Toys (20649182) **1.15** A-Z of Food (22770452) **1.25** Alias Smith and Jones (2687636)

2.15 **Racing from Aintree** Julian Wilson introduces the second day of the 1997 Grand National Meeting. Including the **2.35; 3.10 3.45** and **4.20** races (85948278) **4.45** A-Z of Food (9222029) **4.55** Esther With school inspector Gervase Phinn (9015433) **5.30** Today's the Day (988) **6.00** The Simpsons (462568)

6.25 **Star Trek** Mercenary opportunist Harry Mudd programmes an android to take control of the *Enterprise* (r) (T) (245742)

7.10 **Pole to Pole** Michael Palin's journey through southern Africa is beset by minor mishaps — but he has shocking news on his arrival in Johannesburg (r) (T) (953128) Followed by Video Nation Election Shorts

8.00 CHOICE **A Golfer's Travels with Peter Alliss** A six-part series in which Alliss travels the world in search of diverse golfing locations (6520)

8.30 **Gardeners' World** Alan Titchmarsh lays the groundwork for his butterfly garden at Barleywood, Stephen Lacey goes to Holland to explore the Dutch passion for perennials and Roy Lancaster checks out the amazing wealth of garden plants in South Africa (T) (5655)

9.00 **Rab C Nesbitt** Trouble looms in the Nesbitt household as Rab realises he's not in love with Mary (r) (T) (4907)

Desmond Lynam at Aintree (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Grand National Tales** On the eve of 150th Grand National, Desmond Lynam looks at the horses and jockeys who have made their names in the world-famous race (T) (10346). Video Nation Shorts (462487)

10.30 **Newsnight** presented by Jeremy Paxman (T) (50758)

11.30 **Space: Above and Beyond** An underground raid goes badly wrong — and it's only Damphousse's amazing intuition which keeps the soldiers alive (420549)

12.15am **This Life** (r) (T) (6183834)

1.00 **Later Presents the Beautiful South** (r) (8097747)

2.10-2.15 **Weather** (17259)

HTV

6.00am **GMTV** (6845100)

9.25 **Chain Letters** (T) (2035636)

9.55 **London Today** (T)

10.00 **The Time, the Place** (21471)

10.30 **This Morning** (T) (61266471)

12.20pm **Regional News** (T) (9990452)

12.30 **News** (T) and weather (9990452)

12.55 **Our House** (9908471) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (64377346) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote (2535181) **2.50** Garden Calendar (5173742)

3.20 **News** (T) (7825742) **3.25** Regional News (T) (7824013)

3.30 **Rosie and Jim** (6361723) **3.40** Slim Pig (9929278) **3.50** Cartoon Time (9918162) **4.00** Zzzap! (5400636) **4.15** Jumanji (T) (8393094) **4.40** Crazy Cottage (8446094)

5.10 **A Country Practice** (1757723)

5.40 **News** (T) and weather (571487)

6.00 **Home and Away** (r) (T) (459094)

6.25 **HTV Weather** (798520)

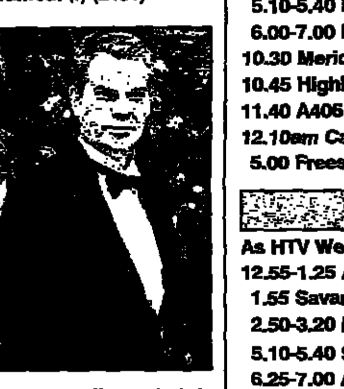
6.30 **HTV News** (T) (907)

7.00 **Emmerdale** The Dingles venture into the transport business, Frank confronts Chris over his betrayal (T) (4926)

7.30 **Coronation Street** Derek finds himself driven to distraction and Fiona is surprised when Steve turns up on her doorstep unannounced (T) (891)

8.00 **The Bill** Jarvis and Rawton investigate a ram raid and the shop owner discovers that having a trophy wife will cost him more than just money (T) (7966)

8.30 **You've Been Framed!** (r) (2181)



Julia St John, Michael Siberry (9.00)

9.00 CHOICE **The Grand** New period drama series set in a luxury hotel after the Second World War. With Tim Healy, Susan Hampshire and Mark McGann (T) (5907)

10.00 **News** (T) and weather (78704)

10.30 **HTV News** (T) and weather (537159)

10.40 **Hotel** (840094)

11.15 **At the Albert** (316636)

12.15 **Box Office America** Jazz pianist and godfather of British modern jazz, Stan Tracey and his quartet at the "Albert" music pub in Bristol (3612389)

12.40 FILM **Murder by Night** (1989) with Robert Urich, Kay Lenz and Michael Ironside. The only witness to a vicious murder is knocked unconscious at the scene, suffering from amnesia the police are keen for him to remember the grisly details. Directed by Paul Lynch (701940)

2.20am **Club Nation** (5345230)

3.20 **Funky Bunker** (8779327)

4.20 **Collins and Maconies Movie Club** (r) (30388414)

4.50 **Recollections** (21626308)

5.00 **Coronation Street** (r) (T) (28308)

5.30 **News** (70853)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 **A Country Practice** (9908471)

1.50 **Savannah** (2535181)

2.50-3.20 **Our House** (5173742)

5.10-5.40 **Shortland Street** (1757723)

6.25-7.00 **Central News** (593891)

10.40 **Central Weekend Live** (4488983)

12.10am **Weekly World News** (3613018)

12.35 **Funky Bunker** (7129308)

1.35 **Baywatch** (4060969)

2.35 **Cyber Cafe** (3097747)

3.00 **Collins and Maconie's Movie Club** (46681105)

3.25 **Dating the Enemy** (4892124)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55 **Home and Away** (9908471)

1.25 **Emmerdale** (70973365)

1.55 **Blue Heelers** (1543907)

2.45-3.20 **Gardeners' Diary** (4451094)

5.10-5.40 **Home and Away** (1757723)

6.00-7.00 **Westcountry Live** (12636)

10.40 **Film: The Gauntlet** (88971162)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 **A Country Practice** (9908471)

1.55 **Savannah** (2543100)

2.50 **Go Wild in the Country: The Making of Wind in the Willows** (5173742)

5.10-5.40 **Home and Away** (1757723)

6.00-7.00 **Meridian Tonight** (12636)

10.30 **Meridian News and Weather** (961181)

10.45 **Highlander** (166510)

11.40 **A406** (375520)

12.10am **Campus Cops** (9567150)

5.00 **Freescreen** (28308)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 **A Country Practice** (9908471)

1.55 **Savannah** (2543100)

2.50-3.20 **Liza's Country** (5173742)

5.10-5.40 **Shortland Street** (1757723)

6.25-7.00 **Anglia News** (593891)

10.40 **Film: The Gauntlet** (88971162)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (37617) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (32075) **9.00 Bewitched** (88181) **9.30 Sister Sister** (8900029) **9.55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper** (7358617) **10.20 Crystal Maze** (7655988) **11.20 Earthworm Jim** (4825433) **11.45 The Pink Panther** (6357636) **12.00 Fresh Pop** (4514365) **12.05pm California Dreams** (9609617) **12.30 Collectors' Lot** (74167) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (32344510) **1.15 Slot Syniadau Sali** (37394015) **1.30 Film: The Three Musketeers** (83453013) **3.50 Fresh Pop** (9916704) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (520) **4.30 Mad About Machines** (704) **5.00 5 Pump** (6232549) **5.15 Mynd Drot Drot** (5394549) **5.30 Countdown** (384) **6.00 Newyddion** (434810) **6.05 Heno** (460100) **6.35 Bob Yn Ddau** (705810) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (196433) **7.25 Cymru Gudd** (701758) **8.00 Ollon Ddoe: Cadw Ty** (8988) **8.30 Newyddion** (2033) **9.00 To the Ends of the Earth: The Transylvanian Job** (3549) **10.00 Brookside** (76346) **10.30 The Best of the Last Resort** (8089655) **11.35 TFI Friday** (903297) **12.35am Robin** (7738563) **12.40 Flava** (1508245) **1.15 Film: And Soon the Darkness** (445308) **3.05 Film: Taste of Fear** (7758563) **4.30-5.55 Film: Eye Witness** (6097969)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am **Sesame Street** The guest is Michael Chang (37617) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (32075) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (88181) **9.30** Sister Sister (r) (8900029) **9.55** Hangin' with Mr Cooper (r) (T) (7358617) **10.20** The Crystal Maze (r) (7655988) **11.20** Earthworm Jim (r) (4825433) **11.45** The Pink Panther (6357636)

12.00 **Fresh Pop** (4514365)

12.05pm **California Dreams** (9609617)

12.30 **Light Lunch** with Ben Elton and Sue Lawrence, a *Masterchef* (65425)

1.30 **Pat and Mat** Animation (22036618)

1.55 FILM **Sunday Dinner for a Soldier** (1944, b/w) with Anne Baxter, John Hodiak and Charles Winninger. A comedy drama about a poor family living on a Florida houseboat who invite a soldier to their home. Directed by Lloyd Bacon (T) (42025471)

3.30 **Travelling Light** Tim Grundy and Peter Hamilton visit Glencoe, Fort William and the Isle of Skye (T) (623) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (520) **4.30** Countdown (T) (704) **5.00** Ricki Lake (2704) **5.30** The Real Holiday Show (r) (T) (384)

6.00 **TFI Friday** Music is provided by Depeche Mode, Supergrass and Texas (10278)

7.00 **Channel 4 News** (T) (729549)

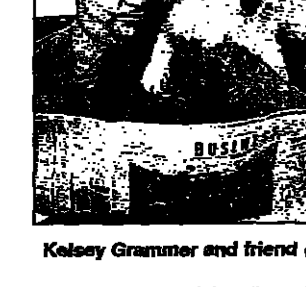
7.55 **Thatcher's Children** (625655)

8.00 **The Lost Gardens of Heligan** (4/6) The four walled acres of the productive gardens (T) (8988)

8.30 **Brookside** Mick is the bearer of bad news and Jimmy explains about the baby (T) (2033)

9.00 **Caroline in the City** Del and Caroline's romantic weekend is disrupted by a chance meeting with Del's embittered former wife (T) (9075)

9.30 **Spin City** Mike stands in for the mayor on *Criss Cross*, a top-rated TV show (T) (15723)



Kelsey Grammer and friend (10.00)

10.00 **Frasier** A repeat of the pilot episode as part of a rerun of the first series of the comedy with Kelsey Grammer. Dr Frasier Craine returns to Seattle in search of a new start (T) (76346)

10.30 **The Best of the Last Resort** A compilation (T) (8089655)

11.35 **TFI Friday** (r) (903297)

12.35am **Robin** Adult animation (7738563)

12.40 **Flava** (8/8) Black music (1508245)

1.15 FILM **And Soon the Darkness** (1970) Pamela Franklin and Michelle Dotrice star as two young women on a cycling holiday in France who fall foul of a sex maniac. Robert Fuest directs (T) (445308)

3.05 FILM **Scream of Fear** (1961, b/w) A Hammer horror starring Susan Strasberg, directed by Seth Holt (7758563)

4.30 FILM **Eye Witness** (1956, b/w) A thriller starring Donald Sinden and Nigel Stock, directed by Muriel Box (1381698)

5.50 **Terrytoons** (7530414)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am **5 News Early** (7077520)

7.30 **Havakazoo** Magazine for pre-school children (2104278)

8.00 **Adventures of the Bush Patrol** Drama series about a group of youngsters (2722907)

8.30 **Wideworld** (2721278)

9.00 **Espresso** Magazine (5894029)

10.00 **Exclusive** (6039278)

10.30 **Nancy Lam** Cookery with Nancy Lam and her husband Ben (r) (T) (2734742)

11.00 **Leeza**. Chat show (9961926)

11.50 **Espresso Update** (45528471)

12.00 **The Bold and the Beautiful** Los Angeles soap (T) (2725094)

12.30pm **Family Affairs** (r) (T) (9609810)

1.00 **5 News Update** (92639346)

1.05 **Sunset Beach** (T) (6724520)

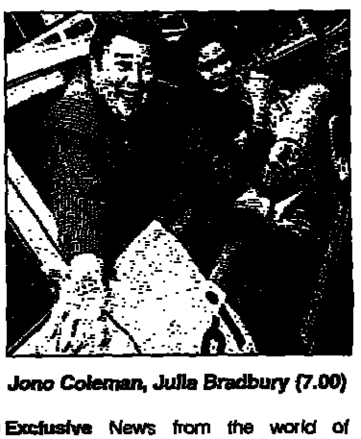
2.00 **5's Company** Entertainment show (2829425)

3.30 FILM **Bye Bye Birdie** (1963) starring Dick Van Dyke and Janet Leigh. Musical based on Elvis Presley's experience of the US Army draft. Directed by George Sidney (7088636)

5.30 **100 Per Cent** Game show (1671013)

6.00 **Whittle** Quiz (T) (1678926)

6.30 **Family Affairs** Nick has a surprise for Chris (T) (1669278)



Jono Coleman, Julia Bradbury (7.00)

7.00 **Exclusive** News from the world of entertainment presented by Jono Coleman and Julia Bradbury (1579162)

7.30 **Wildlife SOS** The work of a wildlife sanctuary. Featuring the desperate attempts to save a deer and a fox cub (1658162)

8.00 **Attractions** Presented by Philippa Forrester and Tim Vincent, with this week's guest the England rugby captain, Phil de Glanville (1588810)

8.30 **5 News** (1574617)

9.00 FILM **Family Business** (1989) starring Sean Connery, Dustin Hoffman and Matthew Broderick. Implausible but entertaining heist caper film. Directed by Sidney Lumet (1182549)

11.00 **The Jack Docherty Show** (9171931)

11.40 **Club Class** Comedy show (2876384)

12.10am **News and Sport** (2178679)

12.15 FILM **Stay Hungry** (1976) with Jeff Bridges, Sally Field and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Comedy drama set in a bodybuilding gym. Directed by Bob Rafelson (1196969)

2.10 FILM **Wyatt Earp: Return to Tombstone** (1993) with Hugh O'Brien and Bruce Boxleitner. The gunfighter returns to his old stamping ground. Directed by Frank MacDonald and Paul Landres (5045650)

3.50 **Burke's Law** (8500691)

4.40 **Prisoner: Cell Block H** (1200650)

5.30 **100 Per Cent** (2427259)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (300013) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (14278) **10.00** Another World (73346) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (86810) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (69568) **1.00pm** Geraldo (45988) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (59278) **3.00** Jenny Jones (78742) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (64549) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (3075) **6.00** Real TV (9365) **6.30** Married — with Children (8407) **7.00** The Simpsons (4704) **7.30** M*A*S*H (2029) **8.00** JAG (80029) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (97365) **10.00** High Incident (90452) **11.00** Selina Scott (65278) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (62075) **12.30am** LAPD (98263) **1.00** Hit Mix (8838414)

SKY 2

7.00pm Beverly Hills 90210 (1922346) **8.00** Melrose Place (1931094) **9.00** Pacific Drive (1024758) **10.00** Tales from the Crypt (8879907) **10.30** Tales from the Crypt (8888655) **11.00** Late Show (6446839) **12.00** Hit Mix (8597292)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Medicine River (1993) (38094) **8.00 The Secret Invasion (1964)** (46758) **10.00 The Wind and the Lion (1974)** (51549) **12.00 Caveman (1981)** (74162) **1.30pm Flight of the Doves (1971)** (59751839) **3.15 The Black Stallion (1979)** (20855029) **5.00 The Black Stallion Returns (1983)** (29452) **7.00 Medicine River (1993)** (76487) **9.00 Robocop III (1993)** (86184) **11.00 Disclosure (1994)** (44885636) **1.10am Edge of Deception (1994)** (501583) **2.50 Minnie and Moskowitz (1971)** (823582) **4.30 Caveman (1981)** (3904230)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am I'll Get By (1950) (36836) **8.00 What Next? U (1974)** (47181) **9.00 Mr Horatio Knibbles** (86048) **10.00 The Three Worlds of Gulliver (1959)** (42891) **12.00 Midnight Run for Your Life (1994)** (54723) **2.00pm The Other Mother (1995)** (84297) **3.30 Joe at the Kingdom of the Ants** (5706487) **4.35 Prehysteria! II (1994)** (5334297) **6.00 Prehysteria! III (1995)** (22297) **7.30 UK Top 10** (2839) **8.00 The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill, But Came Down a Mountain (1995)** (16605) **10.00 Village of the Damned (1995)** (787817) **11.40 Killing Zoe (1994)** (923742) **1.20am Prototype (1991)** (505389) **3.00 Reform School Girl (1994)** (7631476) **4.25 The Other Mother (1995)**

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Donovan's Reef (1963) (8738162) **8.00 Vice Versa (1988)** (8740907) **10.00 Big Trouble in Little China (1986)** (4731549) **11.45 The Beast (1988)** (9141891) **1.40am The Four Musketeers (1975)** (1533872) **3.30-5.40 King's Row (1942)** (50269143)

TNT

8.00pm WCW Nitro (69990891) **9.00 Tom Thumb (1958)** (69900278) **11.00 Kelly's Heroes (1970)** (75304297) **1.30am Escape from East Berlin (1962)** (48761650) **3.00-5.00 Tom Thumb (1958)** (35932018)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (16029) **7.30** Superstars (59520) **8.30** Racing News (28029) **9.00** Sports Centre (30181) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (76471) **10.00** Tight Lines (11520) **11.00** Golf: Madeira Island Open (31384) **12.00** Tennis: Davis Cup — Live (6481094) **4.59pm** Sports Centre (1040891) **5.00** World Sport Special (5452) **5.30** Netbusters (5556) **6.00** Sports Centre (62278) **7.00** Super League — Live (800758) **9.30** The Rugby Club (67723) **10.00** Sports Centre (38638) **11.00** Tennis: Davis Cup (646487) **1.30am** Sports Centre (55308) **2.30** Hold the Back Page (40650) **3.30-4.30** Sports Centre (13495)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm International Cricket — Live (4259385) **10.00** Wrestling: Raw (1734549) **12.00** The Rugby Club (3205501) **12.30am-1.00** World Sport Special (9637218)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Netbusters (93788297) **12.30pm** Football League Review (86013365) **2.00** Snooker: British Open — Live (50796742) **5.00** Snowboard Show (21558100) **5.30** Velo-Cycling Magazine (43604810) **6.00** BMX Supreme (57956758) **7.00** Snooker British Open — Live (70608520) **10.30** Velo-Cycling Magazine (93765346) **11.00-12.00** Hold the Back Page (50061345)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Football (64452) **9.00** All Sports (47520) **10.00** Triathlon (13988) **11.00** Speed Skating (60568) **1.00pm** Motor Sports (60810) **2.00** Snowboarding (6568) **2.30** Skiing (1988) **3.00** Mountain Bike (5075) **3.30** All Sports (88433) **4.30** Freeride (4452) **5.00** Football (33278) **7.00** In-Line Skating (24433) **8.00** Tractor Pulling (33181) **9.00** Boxing (20617) **10.00** Fun Sports (23704) **11.00** Water Polo (14617) **12.00-12.30am** Cycling (89872)

UK GOLD

7.00am Slinger's Day (1642810) **7.35** Neighbours (5393487) **8.00** Crossroads (3228704) **8.25** EastEnders (6669926) **9.00** The Bill (1435966) **9.30** Don't Wait Up (7353687) **10.00** Never the Twain (4394520) **10.30** The Sullivans (6786618) **11.00** The Rockford Files (4258704) **12.00** Crossroads (1530510) **12.30pm** Neighbours (3753623) **1.00** EastEnders (8639723) **1.35** The Two Ronnies (4576926) **2.30** For the Love of Ada (2369162) **3.00** Goldmaster (3716013) **3.30** The Bill (2371907) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (5135433) **5.00** Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game (30243926) **6.05** EastEnders (4067346) **6.40** Are You Being Served? (1962278) **7.20** Russ Abbot (5789988) **8.20** In Sickness and in Health (8295839) **9.00** The Bill (5131617) **9.30** The Chief (79754365) **10.35** The Best of Top of the Pops (1687181) **11.20** The Best of Top of the Pops (3914162) **12.00 FILM: And the Walls Came Tumbling Down** (91074583) **1.10am FILM: Paint Me a Murder** (42521414) **2.30** Shopping at Night

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (5871839) **6.30** Tickle on the Tum (23665810) **6.45** The Magic Ball (79856297) **7.00** 1-2-3 Go! (9589346) **7.15** Tickle on the Tum (3519487) **7.30** Jackson Pace (4239094) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (5918568) **8.30** Families (5917839) **9.00** The Professionals (5953487) **10.00** The Grumbleweeds (2734926) **10.30** The Cuckoo Waltz (5997075) **11.00** Within These Walls (4248742) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (5911655) **12.30pm** Families (6754891) **1.00** Albion Market (4322758) **1.30** The Good Life Guide (6753162) **2.00** First Among Equals (2735655) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3420926) **4.00** The Doctor Series (8035574) **4.30** The Grumbleweeds (2635538) **5.00** The Professionals (5068181) **6.00** Families (1380641) **6.30** Classic Coronation Street (7685033) **7.00** The Doctor Series (5069810) **7.30** The Cuckoo Waltz (1285097) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (2361365) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (3405617) **9.30** The Comedians (6774655) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals

The eerie Martin Stephens and June Cowell (Movie Channel, 10pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Big Garage (9164384) **6.15** Muppet Babies (7912075) **6.40** The Care Bears (1442100) **7.05** Enchanted Tales (6632742) **7.55** The Little Mermaid (1536723) **8.20** Aladdin (2688425) **8.45** Quack Pack (8640758) **9.10** Brand Spanking New Doug (3821742) **9.35** Mighty Ducks (3331723) **10.00** Goof Troop (8644549) **10.25** Darkwing Duck (6648988) **10.50** Timon and Pumbaa (3558810) **11.15** Bonkers (798033) **11.45** The Little Mermaid (5450907) **12.10pm** Quack Attack (2389568) **12.40** Mouse Tracks (5199365) **1.10** Stick with Me Kid (1539162) **2.00 FILM: Aladdin** (46075) **3.30** Timon and Pumbaa (1317568) **3.40** Brand Spanking New Doug (6498669) **4.05** Goof Troop (6231538) **4.30** Quack Pack (9638520) **4.55** Aladdin (9657655) **5.20** Flash Forward (4010297) **5.45** Timon and Pumbaa (573365) **6.00** Sky Trackers (2461) **6.30** Timon and Pumbaa (4471) **7.00 FILM: Aladdin** (14988) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (3013) **9.00-10.00** Flipper (68891)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (1964891) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7490487) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6420891) **7.30** Eagle Riders (6449926) **8.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (8868891) **8.30** Masked Rider (8867162) **9.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (8881742) **9.30** Power Rangers Zeo (7730346) **10.00** Casper (7318839) **10.30** Ace Ventura (8887926) **11.00** Life with Louie (8427278) **11.30** The Tick (8428907) **12.00** Incredible Hulk (8878278) **12.30pm** Mortal Kombat (7734162) **1.00** Highlander (6429162) **1.30** Eagle Riders (7733433) **2.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (4805365) **2.30** Masked Rider (3571013) **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (4817100) **3.30** Power Rangers Zeo (3656758) **4.00** Casper (3562365) **4.30** Ace Ventura (3568549) **5.00** Spiderman (4896617) **5.30** Goosebumps (3655029) **6.00-7.00** Sweet Valley High

TCC

6.00am Road to Avonlea (73471) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (20452) **8.00** Batman (86384) **8.30** Art Attack (85855) **9.00** Flash Gordon (76907) **9.30** Bobby's World (12297) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (91891) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (65891) **11.00** Danger Mouse (37487) **11.30** Gravedale High (32988) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (89471) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (16013) **1.00** By Way of the Stars (47568) **1.30** The New Adventures of Black Beauty (15384) **2.00** The Girl from Tomorrow (4988) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (2636) **3.00** Art Attack (6723) **3.30** Flash Gordon (7181) **4.00** Batman (3988) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm** Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (41346) **6.30** Count Duckula (78933) **7.00** Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (34471) **7.30** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (20278) **8.00** Bruno the Kid (48100) **8.30** Hey Arnold! (47471) **9.00** Rugrats (38723) **9.30** Rugrats (74013) **10.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters (94365) **10.30** Doug (34907) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life (19013) **11.30** Bailey Kipper's Point of View (10742) **12.00** Kenan and Kel (21487) **12.30pm** The Secret World of Alex Mack (58029) **1.00** Sister Sister (33742) **1.30** Moesha (77100) **2.00** Round the Twist (2742) **2.30** The Adventures of Pete and Pete (7162) **3.00** Stickin' Around (8549) **3.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (8907) **4.00** Sister Sister (1742) **4.30** Sister Sister (7926) **5.00** Sister Sister (3094) **5.30** Sister Sister (8278) **6.00** Press Gang (8891) **6.30-7.00** Doug (2471)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (8703948) **1.00pm** Madison (4254988) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (6808592) **2.00** Hangtime (3799346) **2.30** California Dreams (3467758) **3.00** Byker Grove (3701181) **3.30** No Naked Flames (2366075) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (2378810) **4.30** Hangtime (2374094) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (3713926) **5.30** California Dreams (2365346) **6.00** Byker Grove (2468487) **6.30** Madison (2388839) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (9666384)

BRAVO

8.00pm The New Twilight Zone (3702810) **8.30** The New Twilight Zone (3798817) **9.00** The Burning Zone (9662568) **10.00** Tour of Duty (9665855) **11.00 FILM: The Other Hell** (9473145) **1.00am** The Burning Zone (4445360) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9447969) **3.00 FILM: The Other Hell** (4922143) **5.00** The New Twilight Zone (5549394) **5.30** The New Twilight Zone (8600747)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (6758) **7.30** Roseanne (8655) **8.00** Roseanne (9276) **8.30** Monty Python (1013) **9.00** Cheers (34079) **9.30** Taxi (85365) **10.00** Garry Shandling (26988) **10.30** Fraser (35636) **11.00** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (84574) **11.30** Monty Python (90549) **12.00** Nurses (69018) **12.30am** Soap (53969) **1.00** Cheers (19785) **1.30** Taxi (25834) **2.00** Entertainment UK (87259) **2.30** Movie Club (86766) **3.00** Frasier (99921) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling (57018)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Twilight Zone (1923501) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3637747) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror (5721650) **2.30** Rod Serling's Night Gallery (5740785) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (9719679)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (3235948) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (9153689) **10.00** Stars and Gardens (4392162) **10.30** Our House (7035100) **11.00** The Painted House (5142723) **11.30** This Old House (5143452) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (3330592) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (5553605) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (4250182) **1.30** Home Again (8903146) **2.00** Hometime (3795520) **2.30** Furniture to Go (2367704) **3.00** Two's Country (3714655) **3.30** This Old House

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (2381384) **4.30** Bush Tucker Man (2387568) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (3719100) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (2361520) **6.00** Wild Things (4903966) **7.00** Invention (3706635) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (2388297) **8.00** Jurassica (9655278) **9.00** Medical Detectives (5235487) **9.30** Science Detectives (9853461) **10.00** Justice Files (9741029) **11.00** Best of British (4277839) **12.00** Classic Wheels (4052495) **1.30am-2.00** The Extremists (7273788)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Ancient Mysteries (1747013) **5.00** Memories of 1970 (7757723) **6.00** China Rising (4745128) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Martin Luther King (4342029)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour
5.05pm Blockbusters (7133425) **5.50** Family Fortunes (101162) **6.30** Catchphrase (371100) **7.05** Sale of the Century (926636) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (196568) **8.20** All Clued Up (721556) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (345346) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (230075) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (721100) **11.20** Love at First Sight (570988) **12.00** Sale of the Century (66132) **12.30am** Hart to Hart (76679) **1.30** Moonlighting (91124) **2.30** Christy (47476) **3.30** All Together Now (95292) **4.00-5.00** The Fall Guy

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (8840574) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (8421839) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (6861278) **10.05** Jerry Springer (7720655) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (6066907) **11.50** The New Mr and Mrs Show (2341549) **12.25pm** Take a Letter (79275592) **12.55** Tempest (8904520) **1.40** Rolonda (8240471) **2.30** The Heat Is On (9791297) **3.00** Live at Three (26381723) **4.05** Jerry Springer (9178162) **5.05** Lingo (79958891) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (9795013) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (3843704) **6.35** The Heat Is On (2248549) **7.05** Hearts Afire (1177384) **7.35** Infatuation UK (2893839) **8.05** Rolonda (5763029) **9.00 FILM: Roe v Wade** (8730520) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files (2172471)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Election Special **8.00** ZEE Calling **8.30** Shri Krishna **9.00** Punjabi Folk **9.30** Yaadon Ke Rang **10.00** Chalo Cinema **10.30** Kahkeshan **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Hasratain **12.00** Andaz **12.30pm** Dhoop Aur Chaon **1.00 FILM: Anushandhan** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.10** Kamal Kombineson **4.45** Saanp Seedi **5.15** Young Buzz **6.00** Beeji Ke Pg **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Shu Chale Che **7.30** Election Special **8.00** News **8.35** Parampara **9.05-12.00 FILM: Takkar**

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

RUGBY UNION 41
Wasps looking to make amends against Bath

SPORT

RUGBY LEAGUE 45
Harris gets break with £325,000 move to Leeds

FRIDAY APRIL 4 1997

England given World Cup lift

Hoddle plans return to pole position

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN KATOWICE

GLENN HODDLE flew out of southern Poland yesterday afternoon over fields dotted with peasant farmers following their horses and ploughs and sowing their seeds by hand. It is time-warp territory down here and even the events of Wednesday evening took the England coach back closer to a period when things were more as they should be.

Hoddle had watched with 32,000 baying fans in the renovated Slaski Stadium as Poland forced Italy to drop the first two points of their hitherto serene World Cup qualifying campaign by holding them to a goalless draw. The Poles, in fact, could have blown group two wide open, but one golden scoring chance was wasted and the opportunity of victory slipped away.

Hoddle, who joined his assistant, John Gorman, before the game, insisted yesterday morning that he would have preferred Poland to win. But with England's defeat by Italy at Wembley in February having ended their intoxicating opening run of three successive qualifying victories, the most significant effect of the result on Wednesday night was that it left the England coach and his side in control of their own destiny once again.

England have four matches left to play, of course; at home to Georgia at the end of this month, away to Poland here on the last day of May, at home to Moldova on September 10 and, finally, the showdown with Italy in the Olympic stadium in Rome on October 11. But Italy are only four points ahead, having played a game more, and their goal difference has not spiralled beyond England's reach.

Hoddle was buoyed enough by what he saw here, by what he identified as isolated incidences of panic in the Italian defence and lack of penetration by the Poles, to suggest that, if he can field his first-choice team consistently, England could claim the only automatic qualifying place in group two by winning all of their remaining ties. "I always felt that there were chances that both ourselves and Italy would drop points in this group in games other than when we played each other," Hoddle said, "and that that might decide the group. Italy have dropped their first two now and we have just got to make sure that the same thing does not happen to us.

"It seems as though there is more of a fair wind blowing for us now. There is more daylight there. I have not been able to play anywhere near my strongest team yet and, if we can get that side out regularly, I believe we will be able to get to the finals by winning the group. If it comes down to the last match against Italy, then the pressure might be more on them because they are at home.

"The game away against Georgia will be another hard one for them and our match against Poland here will be difficult for us. It is a hell of a hard task playing over here because, over the 90 minutes against Italy, I thought the Poles were the better side.

"It is a tight group, though, and if you look too far ahead, you do it at your peril. I have got to be guarded. We have just got to concentrate on putting our own house in order and taking care of our own results."

Wojtala, the Polish centre back, missed the best chance of the game on Wednesday night, five minutes before half-time. Batuszynski's fierce free kick bounced in front of Peruzzi and, when it rebounded off the Italian goalkeeper's chest, it sat up invitingly for Wojtala, but he could not direct his header downwards and nodded it over the bar from less than six yards.

Italy, who had been the epitome of measured control and casual elegance in the first half an hour, seemed shaken by that chance and a spate of half-chances that fell Poland's way as the interval approached, and Hoddle drew some encouragement from their rare display of fallibility.

"The Italians looked a bit panicky in defence at times," Hoddle said. "Even at Wembley, against us, they looked a little bit apprehensive. Going forward, they failed to get round the back of the Poles and that is where so many chances come.

"It is something we have to pay attention to when we play here. It is not really a case of me playing a winger instead of a wing back, because someone like Graeme Le Saux has been outstanding in our recent matches and he could do that for us. We have got to come here in a positive frame of mind and churn out a result."

First, of course, England have to overcome a Georgia team that only lost to a solitary Ravanelli goal when they played in Italy last October. After the injury deluge that fell upon Hoddle before the international against Mexico last weekend, it will represent his first opportunity of moving back towards that elusive "strongest team" that peoples his dreams.

If Alan Shearer does not suffer any setback in his recovery from a third groin operation, he should be fit to partner Teddy Sheringham in attack for the first time under Hoddle's leadership and Sol Campbell, Tony Adams and David Beckham are also likely to be available for selection.

Scots remain wary, page 44
Lynne Truss, page 46

GROUP TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	5	4	1	0	8	1	13
England	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Poland	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Georgia	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Moldova	4	0	0	4	2	11	0

RESULTS: Moldova 0 England 3; Moldova 1 Italy 3; England 2 Poland 1; Italy 1 Georgia 0; Georgia 0 England 2; Poland 2 Moldova 1; England 0 Italy 1; Italy 3 Moldova 0; Poland 0 Italy 0.

MATCHES TO COME: Apr 30: England v Georgia; Italy v Poland. May 31: Poland v England. June 7: Georgia v Moldova. June 14: Poland v Georgia. Sept 10: England v Moldova; Georgia v Italy. Sept 24: Moldova v Georgia. Oct 7: Moldova v Poland. Oct 11: Italy v England; Georgia v Poland.

Super Sandy soars over The Chair in the John Hughes Trophy, run over the Grand National course, yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

National a less weighty problem

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE 150th Martell Grand National at Aintree tomorrow will be the most lopsided for years, with less than a quarter of the field carrying their proper weight. The unbalanced look to the world's most famous steeplechase became reality yesterday after Kim Bailey, trainer of Master Oats, declared the 1995 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner for the 4½-mile race and thereby effectively reduced the chances of many of his 39 rivals.

Master Oats will shoulder top weight of 11st 10lb, 15lb more than any other horse. Only nine of the 40 runners are carrying more than the minimum of ten stone. If Bailey had decided against running his horse, the weights would have gone up by 15lb and allowed another 15 horses into the proper handicap. Instead, 31 horses will carry ten stone — up to 28lb more than their ability and official handicap rating warrants.

In theory, the bottom-heavy look to the weights should make picking the winner far easier, as an anticipated 15 million people wager £65 million on the outcome. During the past 30 years, only two horses have won the race from "out of the handicap" — Little Polveir in 1989 and Foinavon in the infamous pile-up race of 1967. However, in practice, this year's race looks one of the most open of recent times.

"The race looks particularly open despite the weights staying down and any one of four or five horses could still start favourite," Ian Wassell, of Ladbrokes, said. "Avro Anson is the 'buzz' horse this week, falling from 16-1 to 9-1, and he could fall further as he is attracting public and professional support."

With warm sunshine and strong winds drying out the ground at Aintree yesterday and no heavy rain forecast before tomorrow, the likely fast conditions will count against several fancied, mud-loving horses — notably Suny Bay, who is vying for favouritism.

The opening day of the Grand National meeting was packed with incident yesterday — off-course as well as on it. The bomb scares which brought motorway traffic to a standstill during the morning contributed to two horses failing to reach the course in time, while a police escort was needed for a horsebox carrying six runners trained by Martin Pipe.

"We thought we would definitely miss the first race and possibly the second but the police and everyone were superb and we made it in time," Eamon Leigh, Pipe's travelling head lad, said.

On the course, David Nicholson claimed the first day honours with a 196-1 treble achieved by Midnight Legend, Barton Bank and Escartefigue. However, three jockeys face a fitness struggle after picking up injuries during the John Hughes Trophy, run over the Grand National course. Carl Llewellyn, Jamie Evans and Robert Thornton were taken to Fazackerley Hospital for X-rays.

Aintree hazards 42
British win in Dubai 43

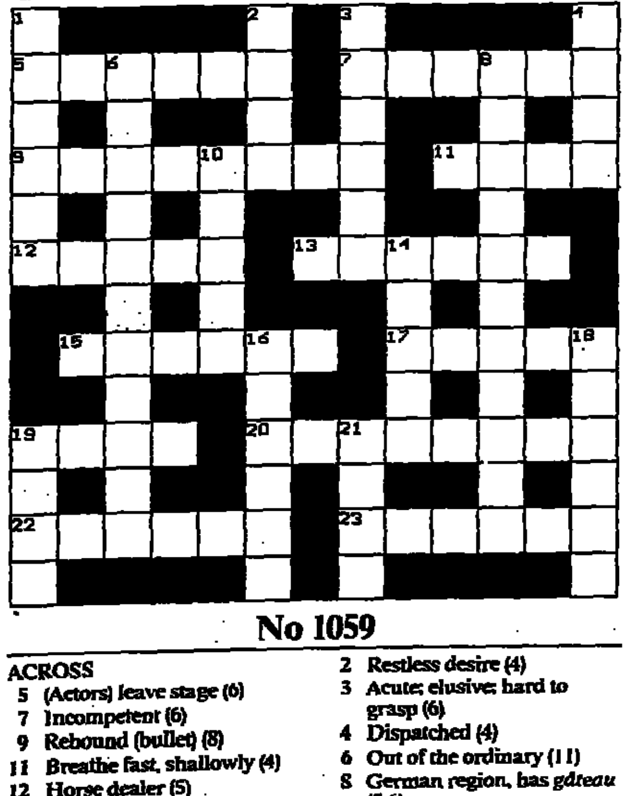
TOMORROW

Richard Dunwoody, twice winner of the Grand National, gives his view of the race.

Colour guide to the Aintree runners and riders and the experts' view of who will win the biggest race of the year.

Richard Evans on Peter O'Sullevan's last call.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1059

ACROSS
5 (Actors) leave stage (6)
7 Incompetent (6)
9 Rebound (bullet) (8)
11 Breathe fast, shallowly (4)
12 Horse dealer (5)
13 Tell off (6)
15 French café (6)
17 Call menacingly (dog) (5)
19 Take meal (4)
20 "Nor all, that —, gold" (*Gray*) (8)
22 Of superior quality (2,4)
23 Gateman; type of ale (6)

DOWN
1 Of our new system of measures (6)
2 Restless desire (4)
3 Acute; elusive; hard to grasp (6)
4 Dispatched (4)
6 Out of the ordinary (11)
8 German region, has *gâteau* (5,6)
10 Jean Baptiste —, landscapist (5)
14 Counterfeit (5)
16 Rue (6)
18 Non-trick-winning cards (6)
19 Caucus-race organiser (*Alice*) (4)
21 Zulu regiment (4)

The solution to 1058 will be published Wednesday, April 9

PRICES NOW INCLUDE FREE UK DELIVERY TO TIMES READERS (REST OF WORLD ADD £1 PER ITEM). STERLING/US DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY. (£1 = US$ 1.65). TIMES CROSSWORDS: - Books 10,11,12,13 £3.99 each. The Times Concise - Book 2 (240 puzzles) £5.99. Crossword Solver's Dictionary £11.95 (UK only). Crossword Manual £9.99 Collins Roget's International Thesaurus £22.99 (UK only) The 2nd Omnibus Book of The Times Crosswords. The Third Book of The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Cryptic) £4.99 each. The Times Night Sky 1997 £3.50. NEW: The Times Two Crosswords Book 6 £2.99.
TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Akenhead — Crosswords on Computer 3.5 diskette (circa 60 crosswords each, solo/team facility and optional HELP levels). Includes: Times Crosswords (19) + Omnibus 1 & 2 (2 + 2). The Times Concise (4) The Times Two (5) —The Times Jubilee Edition 1932-87 (1). (Brackets denote number of diskettes)

Prices per title/diskette:	1	2	Additional disks	
IBM MS-DOS and Acorn RISC Os	£10.25	£14.99	£5 each	Please specify
NEW Windows version for IBM PCs	£15.00	£22.00	£8 each	(inc VAT)

Send cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London, SE13 5QW. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24hrs). No credit cards. Delivery to 8 days.

Board stung by Wisden strictures

BY SIMON WILDE

THE lashing that English cricket received from Matthew Engel, the editor, in the new edition of *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack* met with a predictable response from the game's establishment yesterday. The summer game, it declared, is in rude health on and off the field. Rather more unexpectedly, it took the trouble to outline in detail the reasons why.

These were provided in a statement from Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the newly-formed England and Wales Cricket Board, who was also intimately involved in the operations of the now defunct Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) that so aroused the ire of Engel, who wrote that the shortcomings of the national team were "merely the superficial expression of a far deeper mess".

Lamb gave several reasons for optimism, stating that there are more young cricketers in Britain than ever before, that investment in the domestic game is at a record level and that revenues from ticket sales, broadcasting and sponsorship deals are strong.

Only one of his points, however, addressed results on the field, which is where England have been so feeble. Lamb emphasised the successes of the England A and Under-19 teams but their results only appear to confirm that mismanagement may have a hand in the failures at higher level.

"Cricket is thriving in this country and the general level of interest in the game has never been higher," Lamb said. "All this hardly points to a game in crisis. However, we do accept that it is inevitable that the game will be judged to a large extent by the performances of the national side and we accept that our results at Test level need to improve."

Engel, responding to the wide publicity given to his editorial notes in *Wisden*, which was published yesterday, said: "I do not think I was being especially controversial — I think I was stating the obvious. The job of *Wisden* is to put things into perspective. We take a step back and try to see the game in a historical context.

"The fact is that English cricket is in a particularly catastrophic state. I don't think I have been anything like as hysterical as some of the stuff which has appeared in national newspapers in recent years."

Time to test tennis revival's depth

BY ALIX RAMSAY

THE much-publicised resurgence of men's tennis in Great Britain faces its sternest test to date as David Lloyd and his troops meet Zimbabwe in the Davis Cup, which starts today at Crystal Palace. Robbed by injury of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, Lloyd, the captain, has had to call on Jamie Delgado and Andrew Richardson to push Britain towards qualification for the World Group, the premier division of the competition.

To find himself as Britain's top player comes as something of a surprise for Delgado. Three weeks ago, he was not even in the team, but that was before Rusedski's wrist and Henman's elbow had put them out of the running.

As team-mates go, Delgado, all 5ft 8in of him, and Richardson, at 6ft 7in, could not look more different, but they must face a vastly more experienced player in Byron Black. Delgado will meet the Zimbabwe No 1 on Sunday, while Richardson plays him today.

Last year, Black, ranked No 46 in the world, earned nearly £500,000 in prize-money and collected one singles and four doubles titles on the ATP Tour. This year, he has beaten Marcelo Rios and Albert Costa.

It has taken Delgado, 20, some time to recover from being hailed as the best thing to happen to British tennis, some six years ago. Then, he won the 14-and-under Orange Bowl in the United States but, when it came to growing up and playing against big boys, he was left trailing, not least in the height stakes.

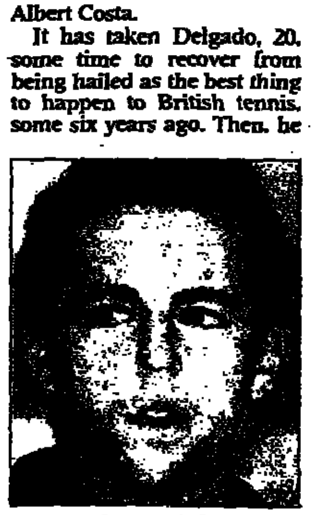
No matter; last year, with the help of his coach, Dave Samuel, and a few pointers from Peter Fleming, he gradually climbed up the rankings and feels at last that his career is on the right track.

Today, he opens the tie against Wayne Black, brother of Byron, which on paper is the easier of the day's two rubbers. Wayne, 23, the younger of the brothers by four years, is ranked No 271 and has had his greatest moments on the American collegiate circuit. That is not to say the result can be assured and, in many ways, it puts yet more pressure on Delgado. If he loses, Richardson has got to beat Byron Black in the second rubber to give Britain a chance — and that is a tall order, even for Richardson. Not that Delgado seems too concerned.

"I'm terribly excited and I'm nervous," he said. "Anything can happen in the Davis Cup, but I've got nothing to lose. It's a great opportunity for myself and Andrew to show we can play and to show that there are a few more players around in Britain."

The doubles, tomorrow, pits the brothers Black against Neil Broad and Mark Petchey. Although Petchey has a higher ranking than either Delgado or Richardson, he has been relegated to the doubles after a truly miserable run of singles results in the Davis Cup over the past few years.

It would appear that Zimbabwe's tennis fortunes, like those of Britain, rely mainly on the performances of just two men, in Byron and Wayne Black. The two other members of the team, Genius Chidzikwe and Peter Nyamande, have but one ranking point between them, and that belongs to Chidzikwe — placing him at No 1,294 in the world order.



Delgado: on right track

How do you feel about your phone bill?

First Telecom offers national and international calls at up to 50% less than BT.

One call from your existing touch tone phone links you to the world's largest and most dependable fibre optic network. There are no connection or monthly rental charges - you don't even have to change your current phone number.

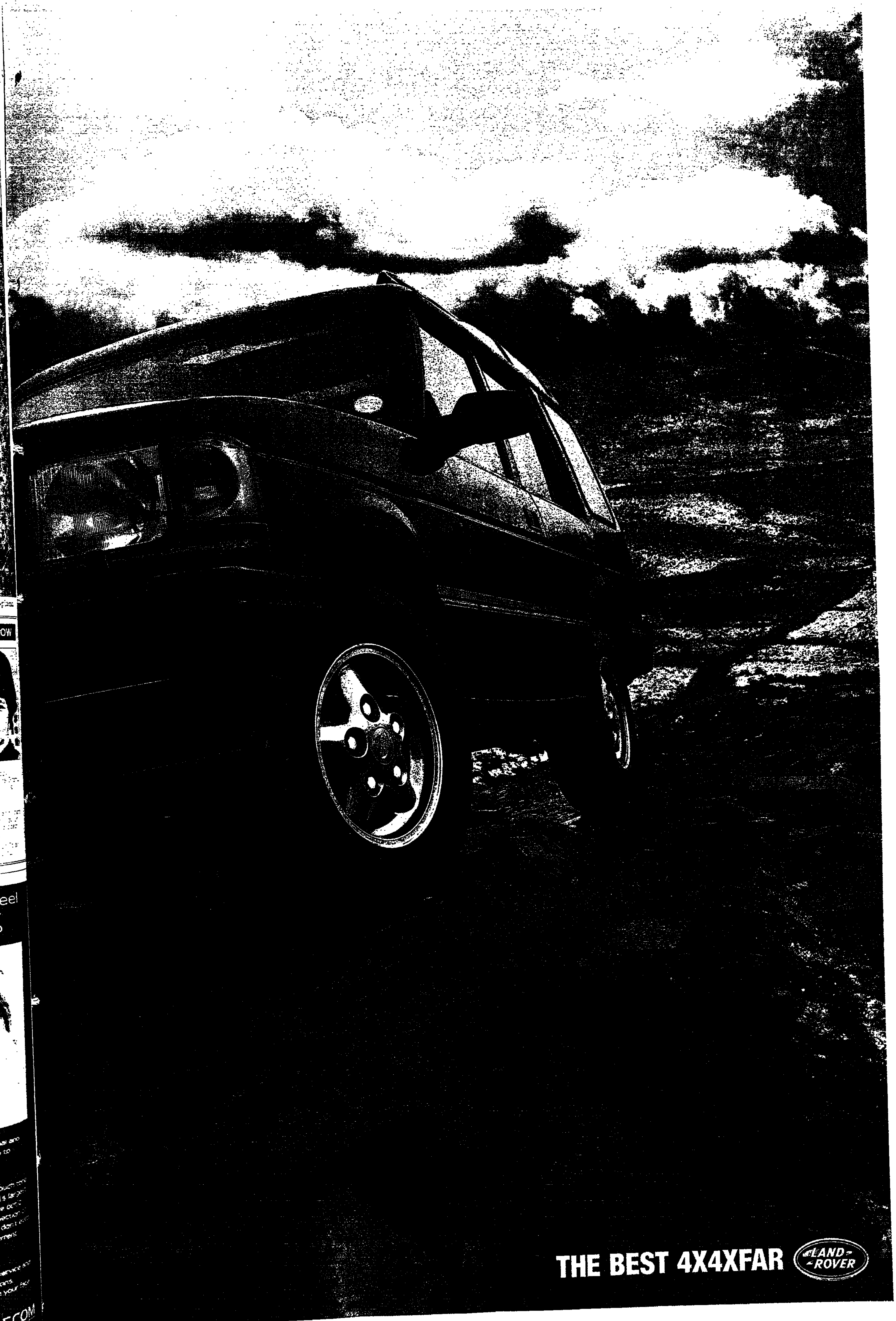
Fantastic savings, friendly service and crystal clear connections.
It's enough to put a smile on your face.

FIRST TELECOM

THE FUTURE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
0800 376 6666
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24 HOURS

هدية من الاهرام

هكذا من الاصل



Babes' army ready for battle with the old guard

MICHAEL POWELL

Lorna Fitzsimons: seeking to dislodge a Liberal Democrat 20 years her senior

Carol Midgley on two Labour candidates hoping to give politics a fresh face

WHEN a Labour government last came to power, Ruth Kelly and Lorna Fitzsimons were in primary school. Yesterday they were doing battle for Tony Blair's babes' army — the fresh-faced twenty-somethings recruited to use their youth, brains and spotless images to wrestle key marginal seats from older opponents.

Ms Kelly, who at 28 is the youngest candidate in the country to fight a key seat, will try to dislodge the Home Office Minister Tom Sackville, 46, from Bolton West, which he has held for the Tories since 1983. Ms Fitzsimons, 29, is trying to oust Liz Lynne, a Liberal Democrat 20 years her senior, from Rochdale. Miss Lynne has responded by pointing to her rival's youth and inexperience, in contrast to her own record at Westminster.

The young challengers — educated, clean-cut and hard-working professionals — conform to the blueprint of a modern Labour candidate. Both are immaculately turned out, have combed hair and unbitten nails, in keeping with new party advice that candidates should be unfussy and businesslike in their appearance.

Ms Kelly, who last summer married Derek Gadd, a councillor in the London borough of Tower Hamlets, is expecting her first child in early June, four weeks after — she hopes — having taken her seat at Westminster. Neither woman is old enough to remember the winter of discontent but both say that they are looking forward to a summer of success as servants of a Labour government. They see their youth as a weapon of power, not a disadvantage.

Ms Kelly, a manager dealing with European monetary union for the Bank of England, said: "Of all the people I have canvassed in Bolton West, no one has suggested that I am too young. I think being young is an advantage. People have lost their trust in politicians in Westminster but we are starting with a clean sheet. We are not tainted by any of the sleaze and we can genuinely claim to be in touch with the under-35s.

"You need a new young breed of MPs to reinstate the trust. The other day one woman who was complaining about corrupt MPs suddenly stopped and said, 'But I can't really blame you for that because you're so young, can I?' "

Ms Kelly, an Oxford graduate and former journalist for *The Guardian*, added that her pregnancy hardly made her blueprint material. "I wouldn't be pregnant now if I was a career politician, would I? These things are never exactly planned, but I am 28 and I never made any secret of the fact I wanted a family. I'm sure I'll manage — Harriet Harman was seven months pregnant when she was first elected. The Labour Party have been great about it."

Ruth Kelly: believes that being young and in touch with the under-35s will be a big electoral advantage

Miss Fitzsimons, from Rochdale, is the youngest guest to have appeared on BBC Television's *Question Time*. Her modernist approach when she was president of the National Union of Students earned her the description of "bourgeois middle-class bitch" from far-Left students. Wearing a black Next trouser suit and shirt, she said that being smart was part of the working-class ethic. "Where I come from, putting your best clothes on — your Sunday best — is what you do when you want to make an effort for people you respect, as I do the people of Rochdale.

"If a PPC [prospective parliamentary candidate] can't be bothered to look smart, why should you be interested in voting for them? I haven't seen any party guidelines on how to dress — it's just how I was brought up.

"As for being too young, why do you have to wait until the age of 40 to offer your services to your country? It is the quality of dedication, not the age, which counts. I have the time and energy to devote.

"If the worst thing Liz Lynne can say about me is that I am 20 years younger than her, then she is in trouble. I am a moderniser, firmly in the Blair wing of the party, and I supose I embody new Labour."

Many Labour candidates have been issued with guidelines on appearance for television interviews during the election campaign. Women are told to wear unfussy clothes and to avoid untidy hairstyles and dangling earrings.

"Do try to look smart and businesslike: plains not patterns," say the guidelines. Men are told to take their jackets off and to wear foundation if they are prone to sweat under camera lights.

Miss Kelly, dressed in a navy suit, string of pearls and a cerise shirt, said that dress codes for an MP were common sense. "It is obvious that you don't wear jeans and a T-shirt to see your constituents. People have to trust the person they elect, so how you present yourself is important.

"But I haven't had anything from head office telling me what to wear. There are a lot more important issues to fight this election on than image."

Williams sets out pledges to the 'policy-minded' sex

Polly Newton on the Lib Dems' message to women

THE Liberal Democrats wooed women voters yesterday with a five-point pledge delivered by Baroness Williams of Crosby.

The party hopes that its education and health plans will capture the support of women, whom it believes are "less tribal" than men and more willing to give policies a fair hearing.

Baroness Williams promised fairer pensions for women; a better deal for part-time workers; lifelong access to education for women; an enhanced role for women in public life; and a better health service for women.

She said: "Women's votes and women's attitudes are extremely important. Women put much more emphasis on the quality of public services and rather less on the level of taxes as men do." The commitment to reintroduce free dental and eye checks was "extremely important to women", she added.

Baroness Williams at a playgroup yesterday

About 23 million women are eligible to vote. Baroness Williams, who took the party message to a playgroup in Hammersmith, west London, yesterday, said that between a third and a quarter still had to decide which party to support.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that too many women felt shut out from the election. "They don't like the Punch and Judy style, they don't like the soundbites, and too often they don't hear any discussion of the policies which matter to them and their families."

In a special section of the manifesto aimed at women, the party will promise a gradual introduction of employment and pension rights to part-time employees and a strengthening of the law on domestic violence. Equal treatment of sexes within the NHS will be promoted, with a promise to make it easier to see a woman doctor.

The party hopes to tackle the under-representation of women on public bodies by setting a target that, within a decade, at least one third of members should be women. The manifesto will also promise reform of Parliament to make it more accommodating to women and families.

Flotilla launch for Goldsmith

Sir James Goldsmith is to launch the Referendum Party's election campaign on Tuesday from Newlyn harbour in Cornwall. A flotilla of 100 fishing boats, flying the party flag, will leave the harbour when he fires a starting gun. Sir James will make a speech from the quayside and visit a seamen's mission. Trawlermen are expected to tell him of their concerns about the common fisheries policy.

Smith's successor

The Tory candidate to replace Tim Smith, who stood down in Beaconsfield after accepting payments in the cash-for-questions affair, will be chosen tomorrow. David Harris, St Ives's MP for 14 years, and Tony Favell, John Major's former parliamentary private secretary, are in the running.

Homeless voters

Homeless people have been allowed to give their addresses as park benches or shop doorways so that they could vote. Norwich City Council agreed to register people with no fixed address provided that they specified where they were sleeping. Two people took advantage of the scheme.

Posters stolen

Police have been alerted in the constituency of Stroud, Gloucestershire, after 50 Labour election placards promoting the candidate, David Drew, were stolen. Party workers believe they may have been taken by political rivals. One said: "It could be an organised thing. A large number have disappeared."

SHARPS
EASTER WEEK
SALE

50% OFF*
OUR MOST POPULAR RANGES
PLUS
EASTER WEEK BONUS
£200 OFF†
ALL ORDERS

SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

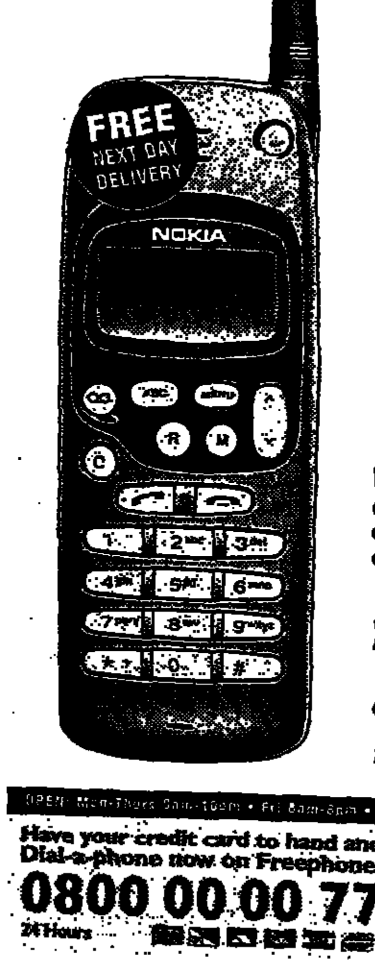
In Sharps Easter Sale there's 50% off our most popular ranges. And if you order this week there's an extra £200 off, PLUS 50% off luxury headboards, stools & mirrors. So visit your nearest Sharps showroom.

SHARPS
bedrooms
A member of the Limelight Group

Easter Week Sale now on
at over 200 showrooms nationwide

VISIT YOUR NEAREST SHOWROOM OR PHONE FREE NOW ON 0800 789 789

*Reductions taken from list prices. Minimum List price £1500. †Extra discounts apply to orders of £1500 or above.



41 MINS FREE CALLS PER MONTH FOREVER*

FREE UP TO 4 MINS OF CALLS PER MONTH WORTH £60.00 A YEAR
FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE IN CAR ADAPTOR WORTH UP TO £55.00
FREE VOUCHERS WORTH £30
100 HOUR BATTERY
PER SECOND BILLING

NOKIA 1611
- Latest Nokia GSM Phone
- 3.5 hours talk time
- Identifies incoming caller

£9.99

Cellnet

Ref: CTI0404

Have your credit card to hand and Dial-a-phone now on Freephone
0800 00 00 77
24 Hours

DIAL-a-PHONE

هكذا من الاعلام

Nicholas Watt on the tactics being used in Gerry Adams's fight to regain his West Belfast seat

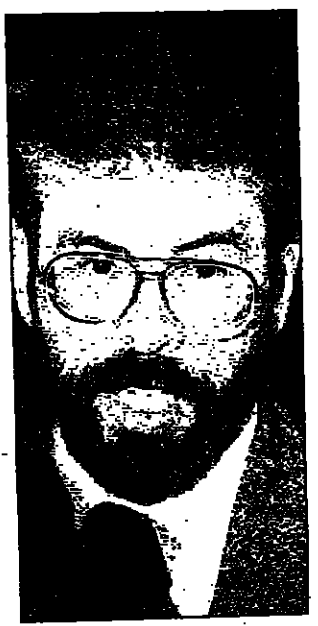
Sinn Fein seeks votes with vigilantes

IN THE shadows of the bleak Army bases that dominate the skyline of West Belfast, Sinn Fein has launched an election campaign with military precision to recapture Gerry Adams's old seat. Republicans more familiar with waging war against the "Brits" have been drafted in as Sinn Fein turns its forces against the SDLP's Dr Joe Hendron, who unseated Mr Adams in 1992.

In a brazen piece of electioneering, Sinn Fein has despatched masked gangs of vigilantes onto the streets to crack down on joy-riders. The vigilantes, who are equipped with spiked chains and walkie-talkies, have concentrated their efforts on the grim estates of Twinbrook and Poleglass, added to the West Belfast constituency under boundary changes.

A Sinn Fein team has compiled detailed breakdowns of potential supporters on lap-top computers as they try to overhaul Dr Hendron's slim majority of 589. Their numbers will be swelled by Sinn Fein supporters who are maintaining the republican tradition of "vote early, vote often" by making multiple entries on the electoral roll.

West Belfast, which tops Sinn Fein's list of four target seats, is crucial to the party's strategy of achieving its greatest electoral success since the foundation of Northern Ireland in 1920. Mr Adams has calculated that if republicans win more than one seat the new government will face formidable pressure to relax its conditions for talking to Sinn Fein.



Gerry Adams: facing a strong tactical vote

On paper Mr Adams should have little difficulty in recapturing his old seat, which he held from 1983-92, because the political fortunes of the SDLP have plummeted in West Belfast since Dr Hendron's victory. At last May's election to the Northern Ireland Forum, Sinn Fein virtually swept the board when it won 53.4 per cent of the vote compared with 26.5 per cent for the SDLP. The boundary changes will also help Mr Adams.

Sinn Fein, which is worried about complacency among its supporters, insists that the contest will be tight. The party knows that Dr Hendron enjoys a strong personal vote at parliamentary elections and that he can also count on the support of up to 4,000 Protestants in the Shankill area who will vote tactically to keep out Mr Adams.

The neck-and-neck race has created the bitterest contest of the election between Sinn Fein and the SDLP. Party workers on the ground seethe at the sight of their opponents. Barely a day passes without a tussle between Mr Adams and Dr Hendron, who embody the opposing traditions of violent and constitutional nationalism. It is a far cry from the days of the IRA ceasefire when the leaders of the parties discussed an electoral pact.

Mr Adams, 48, stands at the apex of the republican movement, which has asserted its control over West Belfast through a relentless campaign of terror against the Catholic population. In contrast, the affable Dr Hendron, 64, has stood out as a vehement opponent of violence and privately voiced doubts about the talks his party leader, John Hume, held with Sinn Fein. During a 35-year medical career in West Belfast he has come face-to-face with the painful reality of republican terrorism.

CRISPIN RODWELL

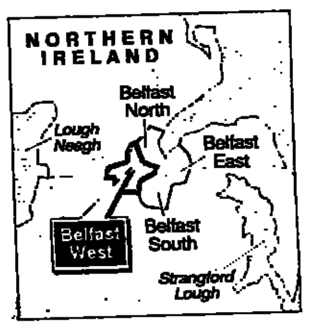
Dr Joe Hendron of the SDLP, who won West Belfast with a 589 majority at the 1992 election. He says that a vote for Sinn Fein is a vote for the IRA

In a powerful attack on Sinn Fein, Dr Hendron said that the electorate would be giving succour to the IRA if they voted for Sinn Fein. As he prepared for the launch of his campaign this week, he said: "People who vote for Sinn Fein will vote for the whims of the IRA. People who vote for Sinn Fein will vote for a fascist, militaristic, sectarian organisation. God help the people of West Belfast if Sinn Fein win."

Dr Hendron derided Mr Adams for the nine years when, although elected for the constituency, he refused to take his seat as an MP in the "foreign" Parliament. He said: "In his time as MP Mr Adams did not bring a single job to West Belfast. But I have played an important role in the creation of 3,000 jobs in the constituency during my five years as an MP."

Sinn Fein, which is campaigning under the slogan of "a new opportunity for peace", is trying to bolster its vote by hinting that a strong vote for the party could lead to a renewed IRA ceasefire. At the launch of his campaign at a community hall off the Falls Road, Mr Adams described the election as a "defining" moment for Ireland. He added: "The incoming British Government will be a new one and all parties will have received fresh mandates. This could spur everyone on by creating a new sense of purpose in the search for peace."

Mr Adams assured supporters that he would still not take his seat at Westminster. He said: "We stand on an abstentionist ticket, but it is a policy of active abstentionism. We will go to Westminster to advance the general interests of our constituents. But we will not take an oath of allegiance to an English Queen and we will not take up our seats in that Parliament."



THE TIMES
THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE NINETIES
CAN YOU ALWAYS GET YOUR COPY?
Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of THE TIMES
Name
Address
Postcode

Mother and son search for road to Westminster

POLITICAL FAMILIES

ELIZABETH PEACOCK found few votes in Parliament Street yesterday (Damian Whitworth writes). The indomitable Mrs Peacock, Batley and Spen's Tory MP for 14 years, had popped across to the neighbouring west Yorkshire seat of Wakefield, where her son Jonathan is the Tory candidate. But they found that the road led them only to the gates of Wakefield prison.

This did little to dampen the spirits of Mrs Peacock, 59, who is one of the greatest escapologists of recent election history. When Conservatives with far greater majorities than hers were swept away at the last election, she increased her vote by 40.

If her 32-year-old son, a barrister, is successful in securing a seat, he should have inherited a good idea about how to hold on to it. Mrs Peacock is quite certain why she is still there. "I'm a very independent Yorkshirewoman. One minister said when he came to speak here that I was bloody minded. I was a bit surprised by that, but maybe it's true," she said.

She voted against charges for dental and eye checks and spoke out noisily against government policy on coal mining. This was perhaps crucial in saving her in 1992.

The Labour candidate, Mike Wood, 51, a social worker and former local councillor, argues that Mrs Peacock is neither as independent nor as loyal to the miners as she claims, having voted for the Government's electricity privatisation programme. "She is not prepared to accept the logic of her actions," he said. "We intend to put her on the spot about this."

It is likely that Mrs Peacock will have to come out with all guns blazing, especially as the loss of the traditionally Tory town of Heckmondwike, formerly part of her constituency, means that her estimated majority, based on 1992 voting, is just 845.

But Danny Lockwood, editor in chief of the Dewsbury Reporter Group of newspapers, which includes *The Batley News*, says that it is unwise to underestimate the importance of strong local voices in Yorkshire politics. Here, there is rivalry even between towns. Batley and Dewsbury, just a few miles apart, refused to merge their Rugby League clubs. "You talk about the antipathy of northerners to southerners. That is nothing to what Dewsbury men think of Batley men."

Leading article ....Page 21

Jonathan and Elizabeth Peacock finding their way around the campaign trail in Wakefield yesterday

The Open University
• Use your degree
• Study part-time
• Become a secondary school teacher.

Ever thought of a teaching career? If you have a degree you can train in your own time through one of Britain's most successful and prestigious postgraduate programmes. *What's more, your fees will be paid and you can nominate a local school* for your teaching practice.

So there's no need to give up work or leave your family in the lurch. The OU has designed the Postgraduate Certificate in Education programme around you.

Winner of the 1996 Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education,
the OU's PGCE programme offers courses in:
• Maths • Science • Design & Technology
• English • History • Music
• French

There are special bursaries available if you want to teach Maths, Science, or Design & Technology. French students will be eligible to attend a one week residential course in France all expenses paid.

How it works

The course runs for 18 months, from February 1998 to July 1999, and includes periods of full-time teaching experience in schools. There will also be group study sessions and you will be supported by your own personal tutor.

The courses include study guides and resource materials, audio and video cassettes. You will receive the loan of a personal computer, printer and modem.

Call today

If you've ever thought you'd like to be a secondary school teacher, ask for your free PGCE prospectus today. Simply complete the coupon or ring the Hotline on 01908 373077.

Complete and send this coupon to: PG97H
The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK1 1TY.
☐ Please send me your PGCE prospectus.
Name
Address
Postcode Tel No
☎ **To save time call the Hotline** 01908 373077
Internet: http://www.open.ac.uk/OU/Study.html
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION & TRAINING OPEN TO ALL ADULTS

BUY A JAR OF NESCAFÉ AND YOU COULD BE HAVING BREAKFAST ON ONE OF 1000 DREAM HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD. For instance, you could *win* one of *10 luxurious holidays* to Jamaica, Florida, Kenya or cruising the Caribbean. Also, there are 250 seven night European city holidays – flying with British Midland and staying in a first-class Golden Tulip Worldwide Hotel – and 740 relaxing champagne breakfast breaks in the UK to be won. But if you don't win one of the dream holidays don't despair, because all other labels offer guaranteed lowest price weekends at the Jarvis Hotel of your choice.

Closing date:- 31.12.98. Open to UK residents aged 18 years or over. No purchase necessary - see promotional jars for details.

Records show Clinton fundraising obsession

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

HUNDREDS of pages of confidential White House documents reveal that President Clinton was so obsessed with the need to raise cash to campaign for his re-election that he buried himself in the trivia of Democratic Party fundraising.

The six-inch stack of records compiled by Harold Ickes, Mr Clinton's former Deputy Chief of Staff, counters the President's claim that he kept a clear distinction between money-raising for his own campaign and for the party.

The documents, demanded by a congressional committee investigating allegations of unethical fundraising techniques, convey an atmosphere of desperation as the Democrats struggled to pull themselves out of the political abyss they had reached in 1994.

In themselves, the documents do not point to illegality. But they are unusually detailed. Mr Ickes appears to have been a compulsive note-taker, despite the possibility that records would be subpoenaed at a future date, a risk that deters most prominent American officials from keeping a diary or notes.

Taken together with other records which have emerged, Mr Ickes's notes may prove acutely troublesome for the President and Vice-President Al Gore.

Mr Clinton is fighting hard to establish that he did not misuse the office of the President to help the Democratic Party campaign, and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) is trying to demonstrate that it did not knowingly receive illegal contributions from foreigners.

Ickes: squeezed out at the White House

The documents released on Wednesday — the second set of records surrendered to congressional investigators by Mr Ickes — may also further damage the Democratic Party's ability to raise money. Still in debt from last year's presidential campaign, the party is struggling to raise money to fund next year's congressional elections and to repay earlier contributions whose source is now in question.

According to the new documents, Mr Ickes warned Mr Clinton and Mr Gore in February last year that "the fundraising needs for the DNC will require a very substantial commitment of time from the President, the Vice-President, the First Lady and Mrs Gore". In the memo, Mr Ickes underlined "very substantial".

In November 1995, a year before the election, campaign contributions were falling so far short of expectations that Mr Ickes recommended to President Clinton that he, together with Mr Gore and Hillary Clinton, try to solicit money through personal telephone calls to potential donors. Mr Ickes reckoned that the only way to raise $1.2 million in a hurry would be for the President to make 20 calls, the Vice-President 15 and Mrs Clinton ten. Of the three, only Mr Gore has acknowledged making fundraising calls at that point in the campaign.

Mr Ickes, one of the White House staff in Mr Clinton's first term who regarded themselves as the President's liberal conscience, was gradually squeezed out as the President's policies moved towards the centre. He lost the battle for the top job of Chief of Staff to the much more conservative Erskine Bowles.

Mr Ickes has not talked in detail of his time in the White House, beyond handing over records to Congress. They have been heavily censored, with passages held back on the advice of his lawyers.

LUC NOVOVITCH/REUTER

Bill Clinton, framed by his crutches, at a Democratic National Committee meeting

IMF looks into secret Israeli fund for Arafat

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S transfer of almost £100 million in tax revenue to a secret bank account under the control of Yassir Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, is being investigated by the International Monetary Fund.

Money has been deposited in the account since 1994 to reimburse the authority for export taxes levied on fuel intended for Palestinian consumers. But an internal IMF document says the account, with a Tel Aviv bank, is "not under the supervision or control of the Palestinian Finance Ministry".

According to Western diplomats, only two people can operate the account, Mr Arafat and Muhammad Rashid, his senior economic adviser. Other taxes that Israel has agreed to transfer to the authority were sent to banks outside Israel.

Haaretz, the Israeli daily, says at least part of the money deposited in the secret account was intended to elude the supervision of donor nations such as the United States. The newspaper said some of the funds were used to pay for the "bloated Palestinian security apparatus and the salaries of tens of thousands of superfluous clerks — purposes not authorised by the donor nations".

A senior Israeli official said some of the funds were intended for two different purposes. One was to get Mr Arafat, his family and a few senior officials away in the event of a coup. The other was a group of actions that the Arafat administration felt committed to finance in order to keep political power bases. This was also expenditure that donor nations would never approve, the official said.

But Dr Maher al-Kurd, the Palestinian Deputy Economics and Trade Minister, defended such practices. "The Palestinian Authority has the power to create economic reserves for itself in case of an emergency — something like a civil war. It's a shame the donor nations and the state of Israel do not understand this."

The issue is to be raised before Israel's parliamentary finance committee next week. Silvan Shalom, the co-ordinator for the committee, said: "Previous governments transferred the funds to Arafat so that he would be so kind as to carry on with the Oslo [peace] process."

Avraham Shochat, a former Israeli Finance Minister, said the funds were transferred under arrangements made in the so-called Paris accords, which govern economic co-operation between Israel and the Palestinians.

Yassir Arafat at a Palestinian police exercise yesterday

Netanyahu determined to defy Americans at summit

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Middle East crisis entered its third week unabated yesterday as clashes again rocked the occupied West Bank and Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, vowed not to compromise on settlement building during a crucial summit with President Clinton next Monday.

Jewish settlers mobilised to stiffen Mr Netanyahu's resolve in the face of Israeli reports that Mr Clinton would press for a temporary freeze on settlement construction, at least in annexed east Jerusalem, as part of a package deal to rescue the peace process from the brink of collapse.

"The Prime Minister will make clear in Washington that Israel stands by its right to build in Jerusalem and in settlements, and that building will continue at Har Homa," said Shai Bazak, Mr Netanyahu's spokesman, referring to the project for 6,500 new Jewish homes in east Jerusalem which led to the latest spiral of violence.

The Arabs rejected the Israeli stance, increasing the formidable difficulties facing Mr Clinton in finding any quick diplomatic fix to halt the violence that has left nearly 600 Palestinians wounded and nine people dead, including three Jewish victims of a Tel Aviv suicide bomb.

In an attempt to avert more suicide bombs, Israel announced yesterday it had suspended its request to extradite a leader of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, from the US. "The Israeli Government has informed the US that at this stage, it wishes to suspend its request to extradite Hamas leader Moussa Abu Marzook to Israel," a statement from Mr Netanyahu's office said. "The decision was made on the basis of considerations relating to security and the prevention of terrorism."

Taleban outlaws women and white socks

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS have reopened in Afghanistan after the winter break without a single female student or teacher. This latest affront to girls and women follows the introduction of a rule banning the wearing of white socks because they might be attractive to men.

Kite-flying, once popular in much of the country, has also been banned because the excitement might disturb men obeying the Taleban edict to pray five times a day. House windows have been painted black to stop women being seen from outside.

Paper bags have been outlawed because of the remote chance that discarded pages of the Koran could end up in recycling bins and be turned into a bag. Soccer has been banned because it is said to be un-Islamic — possibly because men show their legs, although the reason has never been announced. The strict regime is enforced by members of the Religious Police Force, who patrol the streets checking on women and reminding people of the latest regulations over loudspeakers. Photography and video players have been banned as un-Islamic, and women are no longer allowed to use the public baths — the only means to have a bath for many women because of cramped living conditions.

No other Islamic country imposes such harsh regulations. Iran allows women to vote, work and hold seats in parliament. In Afghanistan, women and girls are essentially banned from doing anything except working in the home and shopping.

They are whipped or jailed for violating the rules, which are invented by senior mullahs before being broadcast over Radio Shariat. It is essential for people to listen regularly to the radio to keep up with the constant flow of orders. Most mullahs in Afghanistan are illiterate graduates of *madrassas* (Islamic schools), which teach them to recite the Koran by heart.

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) described the exclusion of women and girls from schools as an affront to human rights. Afghanistan was a "nation of widows". The 30,000 widows in Kabul were banned from working, except for a few who were allowed employment in designated hospitals. Kabul University, which used to have 4,000 female students, reopened late last month without female teachers or students. Taleban requires women to wear a voluminous veil. Even their eyes are covered by a cloth mesh.

Meanwhile, fighting is intensifying on two main battlefronts — one north of Kabul and the other in the west — as Taleban seeks to bring the entire country under its control. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said more than 250,000 people had been displaced since October. Many had fled to neighbouring Pakistan.

Mitterrand tapped telephones

Paris: Secret files from François Mitterrand's anti-terrorist unit discovered in a rented garage show the late French President ordered widespread illegal telephone tapping during his 14 years in power (Susan Bell writes). Often he was trying to protect his privacy, and especially the existence of his illegitimate daughter, Mazarine.

The archives contain recordings of tapped telephone conversations, demands for presidential favours and memos on terrorism suspects.

New anthrax has no cure

London: The Russian Federation has produced a genetically engineered variant of the anthrax bacillus which is resistant to all known antibiotics, *Jane's* publications said. News of the variant, developed in military research laboratories, was leaked by defectors. Anthrax, an infectious disease that normally affects animals, can be used as a biological weapon. *(AP)*

Godzilla's creator dies

Tokyo: Godzilla, the film monster, will live on despite the death in Tokyo of Tomoyuki Tanaka, 86, his creator (Robert Whymant writes). Tanaka produced the 1954 film which created the star of 22 movies. Roland Emmerich, the Hollywood director of *Independence Day*, has revived the monster for a new film to be released next year.

Mobutu men excluded

Kinshasa: Etienne Tshisekedi, Zaire's new Prime Minister, unveiled a cabinet with no associates of President Mobutu and with six ministries reserved for Laurent Kabila's rebels who control a quarter of the country. But a rebel official said they would not join Mr Tshisekedi's government. *(Reuter)*

Anger over US bases

Tokyo: A wave of anger swept Okinawa island as Japan's Government prepared to push through legislation to forcibly extend land leases for 12 American military bases (Robert Whymant writes). About 3,000 people are refusing to renew contracts to lease their land, part of that occupied by 40,000 Americans.

Court stops crucifixion

Sanaa: Yemen's supreme court approved the death sentence, by firing squad, on Mohammad Ahmad Misleh, 48, who shot and killed four schoolchildren and two of their teachers on Sunday, but overturned a lower court ruling that his body should be nailed to a cross. *(Reuter)*

Reprieve for fowl murder

Bangkok: Vichai Thongto, 30, of Ratchaburi province, was killed by a peacock, his pet for eight years. The Thai was feeding four caged birds when the sole male clawed his head, causing a blood clot. His family would have curried the peacock out of revenge, but were too fond of it. *(AP)*

OFFER EXTENDED!

25% OFF

MARKED PRICES ON ALL CARPETS, VINYLS & RUGS
EXCLUDING AXMINSTERS AND WILTONS

MUST END WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO BUY A CARPET!

PLUS! up to 3 YEARS Only 10% Deposit Now 0%* apr
INTEREST FREE CREDIT

Spend	Free Credit Period	Payments from
£200 - £499	*18 months*	*£10 a month*
£500 and over	*3 years*	*£12.50 a month*

plus FREE UNDERLAY
with all Axminsters and Wiltons £23.91m² (£19.99 sq.yd.) & over†

Allied CARPETS
35 Years of Inspirational Choices for your Home

For your nearest Allied Carpets ring FREEPAGES ☎ 0800 192 192

*Example: Purchase price £500. Deposit £50 (minimum 10%). Balance £450, payable by 36 direct debit payments of £12.50 per month. Total price on credit £500. 0% APR. Subject to status. Written quotations from Allied Carpets, Orpington BR6 0JQ, who are licensed credit brokers. †Free Standard Underlay, £3.89 m² (£3.25 sq.yd.) on all Axminsters and Wiltons over £23.91 m² (£19.99 sq.yd.). 25% off and Free Underlay offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other voucher, discount or promotional offer. 25% off promotion replaces all other advertised offers. These offers are not available in N.Ireland. Not all stores stock rugs, please check before traveling.

هكذا من الأعلى

هكذا من الاعلام

Albanian leader's family home gives wary welcome where eagles dare

President Berisha's background may have given him a better start than most to face the hazards of leadership. **Tom Walker** reports from Tropoje

IT MAY be some time before "At home with the Berishas" graces the pages of *Hello!* magazine. If Albania seems cut off from the Western world, then its far northeastern corner, birthplace of President Berisha and seat of his clannish family, is at a further remove.

The high mountains all around and harsh winters leave Tropoje largely isolated for four months of the year, and the flooding of the Black Drin valley — the maniacal hydroelectric legacy of Enver Hoxha, the late Communist dictator — means the only safe route of approach is by boat. Unless the President takes his helicopter, the 300-mile round trip from Tirana takes three days.

"This place only for eagles," said Peter, our taxi driver. Like most southern Albanians, he views the north with considerable suspicion — a faraway realm of mountain savages, from which few return. The winding track through the highland copper belt of Kushnen in north-central Albania brought him only punctures and bad memories. As the jagged edges of spent Kalashnikov cartridges ripped open his tyres, Peter looked down at the mines where he had toiled for many of his 22 years as a political prisoner. "We go back — now," he kept imploring. But we had missed the ferry, and spent nine hours on perilous hairpin bends overlooking sheer drops. Darkness had fallen and returning along a track that is notorious for banditry seemed inadvisable.

Our fortunes improved as Peter's badly bruised Mercedes limped into Bajram Curri, the only town of any description in the northeast. The local hotelier advised that staying with a local family might be preferable to his arctic rooms — the hotel occasionally doubles as a mortuary — and we were taken to the home of Din Selimi, the town's surgeon.

In the morning, after checking up on an 18-year-old whose lungs, liver, kidneys and pancreas had been punctured by four bullets, Dr Selimi procured the hospital vehicle for us. An amalgam of French, Italian and Russian engineering known as a "Waz", it was the only means of transport — except donkey or on foot — to the President's home.

The Berisha farmstead shelters beneath the 7,000ft Mount Shkelzen. Just five miles east is the Morina pass into Kosovo, the Albanian-dominated region of Serbia where President Milosevic's tanks line the border. This is an area of suspicions and hostilities, where the ground floors of most houses have no windows — a precaution against the lingering blood feuds and vendettas.

Leading us into the courtyard, Dr Selimi pointed out eye-like slots in the upper floors of the massive stone house. "So you can shoot at Serbs," he explained.

A wizened elder in a white cap appeared, and we were led up an external wooden staircase to the guest room. "They come here with good intentions," said Dr Selimi. The old man did not look convinced, but bade us sit down. He squatted opposite the fireplace, as more Berishas entered, including two border guards who laid their Kalashnikovs by the door. The local raki liquor was ordered.

Zequir Islam Berisha said he was the best man of Mr Berisha's father, and had performed the ritual first cut of the infant's hair in 1944. "He was a very clever boy, quiet and fond of books," he said, recalling the President's habit of learning "between 50 and 100 new words each day" in French and Russian.

As Arben Berisha, son of the President's cousin, refilled the raki glasses, the President's praises were toasted from all sides: a great doctor, a noble and honest family, the right man to lead the nation. The Berishas present said their family numbered around 120, divided between Tropoje, Bajram Curri and Tirana. "The President has not done any favours to his family. We live in the same conditions as other Albanians," said Arben's mother, Elmaze Berisha, briefly entering the room to expel some invading chickens. She said her husband and his brother had left for the capital "to defend the family and the President". In the corner, a box was fixed six feet up a wall, where guests could place their weapons.

Zequir Islam Berisha and the guards glanced uneasily at our translator, a high-heeled southern girl making her first and probably last journey to Tropoje. "The tradition is that women should not take part in meetings, but things are changing," reflected the old man, nodding sadly. "Now that we're in Europe."

Kohl announces he will seek fifth term as Chancellor

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, has announced that he intends to stand for re-election next year after months of speculation that he was suffering from failing health and losing control over the spiralling economic problems that have dogged him for the past year.

During an interview to mark his sixty-seventh birthday yesterday, he made the announcement when asked if he wanted to run again. "A very clear yes," he replied. "I will stand again if my party and political friends want that."

There is no doubt that his Christian Democratic Union (CDU), and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), will nominate him for the election, to be held at the end of 1998. Days earlier, party colleagues and friends, including Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister and CSU leader, publicly repeated their support. Political allies have been urging Herr Kohl to declare his candidacy early to put pressure on the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

"There has never been any doubt that Herr Kohl is the chosen candidate of the CDU/CSU coalition," said a government spokesman in Bonn last night. "What we hadn't heard from the Chancellor was a definite indication that he would stand."

The statesman looked relaxed and cheery during the interview with the state ARD television station, filmed at a spa hotel in Bad Hofgastein, near Salzburg, where he and his wife, Hannelore, have spend their Easter holidays.

He beamed proudly as he declared his plan to run in an election that, should he win, would make him the longest-serving government leader in Europe since the Second World War. After 14 years in power, he is already Germany's longest-serving postwar Chancellor, reuniting the country in 1990 and defeating four SPD challengers at the polls. It is clear he is intent on adding the launch of the euro single currency to his achievements before retiring.

"He who campaigns against the euro in the general election campaign — and I've heard such noises from the Social Democrats — campaigns against the unity of Europe and will lose this election dramatically," Herr Kohl said recently.

A tough boss, he prefers the "hands-off" style of leadership, leaving day-to-day politics to ministers and advisers, seeing himself rather as a statesman along the lines of the President in the United States or France.

He rarely makes statements in response to unemployment figures — creeping towards five million — to marauding miners marching on Bonn, or Bundesbank experts doubting Germany's ability to cut its deficit to fulfil the Maastrict treaty criteria.

It is this "distanced" method of governing that has brought success with voters. "Kohl doesn't stand alone — he is the 'Kohl system'," said Uwe Bahnsen, political correspondent for *Die Welt* newspaper. "The Kohl system reaches far into the media, the economic and financial institutions of this land and into German life itself.

"Unemployment is too high ... but it is not a problem that affects the everyday lives of most Germans," he said. "For them there is only Kohl. The SPD is too aggressive, too provocative, too risky — they want what they know and they know Kohl, like an old uncle."

In a poll in yesterday's *Stern* magazine to find the person Germans most want as Chancellor, Herr Kohl beat all potential SPD candidates except Gerhard Schröder, the Premier of Lower Saxony and Euro-sceptic — who was ahead by 12 percentage points.

Leading article, page 21

Kohl: "the voters know him like an old uncle"

French poll 'early'

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE French legislative elections, scheduled for next year, could be brought forward to as early as this June, according to rumours in the French press yesterday.

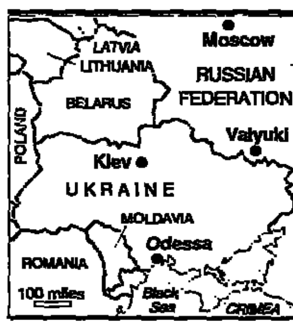
Many politicians among the centre-right ruling coalition are pressing for an early election in which they are confident of winning a comfortable majority. The proposal, which has been pushed privately by Jean-François Mancel, General Secretary of President Chirac's Gaullist RPR party, also has considerable support among followers of Edouard Balladur, the former Prime Minister. The ruling RPR and UDF parties have almost completed the selection of their 555 candidates, with just 30 exceptions, a feat they accomplished in record time.

While Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, is not against the idea of moving the election forward, the Elyseé Palace is said to be lukewarm about it. M Chirac has publicly rejected any idea of dissolving parliament for "the sake of convenience". A source close to the President told the daily *Libération*: "The French like to be consulted regularly, but do not like to have their familiar routines changed."

RICHARD BEESTON

Maria Pashinka, a faith healer, wields her crucifix like a sabre. She prescribed holy water to lift a supposed witch's curse on two men

Black magic puts spell on rural Russia



Pagan superstitions and medieval notions of justice still hold sway among many Russian peasants, **Richard Beeston** reports from the remote village of Valyuki

TATYANA Kuleshova has only a hazy memory of the cold night in February when two men from a nearby village burst into her tiny home in Valyuki and tried to wipe out her family in a frenzied attack provoked by the ancient superstitions that still control life in rural Russia.

"All I can remember is that they broke in about midnight. There was shouting. Someone struck me again and again with a hammer. They were attacking my brothers and sisters, even the little ones. My mother was killed. It was madness," said the frail-looking Miss Kuleshova, 22. Two months after the attack, which left her with serious head and leg injuries, she is still traumatised by the assault.

Although the police arrested the two men, her former boyfriend and his cousin, the motive for the savage attack has split this farming community in the heartland of Russia's fertile "black earth" region 500 miles south of Moscow where many on the former Lenin collective farm are swayed by age-old pagan suspicions and relieved that the family is too frightened ever to return home. Miss Kuleshova may look like any other peasant, but her attackers are convinced she is a witch.

"My husband was a good, hard-working and honest man until Tanka [Tatyana] put a spell on him and ruined his life," said Larisa Lebyodkina, the wife of Aleksandr Lebyodkin, one of the two accused. "She drove him to this ... There should be a law against witchcraft."

Mrs Lebyodkina's evidence sounds like some hideous description from an account of medieval justice. Miss Kuleshova had for some time aroused the suspicions of the villagers. She was a loner and unmarried. She had a lazy eye. She frequently went to the woods by herself, and it was rumoured that she had a book on black magic at home.

Early this year Mr Lebyodkin and his younger cousin Sergei Gretsov, who both worked as woodcutters, started complaining of seeing strange creatures in the forest, with the head of a black dog and the torso of a young woman. Mr Gretsov claimed the beast's body was that of Miss Kuleshova.

The men sought the advice of "Babka" Maria, the most powerful spiritual faith healer in the region. The former nurse's speciality is fending off the devil with religious incantations and the crucifix she wields like a sabre.

When the two men came to her, she diagnosed that a powerful curse had been placed on them and prescribed a treatment of holy water. Although they showed improvement, they nevertheless decided one night to wipe out "that family of wizards".

Gennadi Chekaldin, the detective investigating the attack, said that the incident was the first of its kind since the revolution. "The accused men are undergoing psychiatric tests, but I can tell you that they are completely sane," he said. "They just believe in all this hocus-pocus, like everybody in the villages."

The Russian Orthodox Church is particularly worried about the development. During the years of Soviet rule, spiritual life was dominated by faith-healers and mystics. Now that the country is undergoing a period of economic and social upheaval, the Church is finding it difficult to reassert its role as the guardian of Russia's spiritual life. "We had a long period of total absence of spiritual education," said Father Aleksandr Bulekov, a priest at the Moscow Patriarchate. "People have lost the understanding of what is good and bad, and that is why we see so many deviations in moral, private and sexual life. We are seeing a weakening of Christian values."

Mafia chief held over boy's killing

Palermo: Italian police yesterday arrested a Mafia boss suspected in the kidnapping of the son of a Mafia turncoat and the killing of the boy whose body was dumped in a vat of acid, police said.

Salvatore Gallina, 54, head of the Mafia clan in Carini, was arrested near Palermo, the Sicilian capital, after several witnesses accused him of holding the 11-year-old, Giuseppe Di Matteo, for a year and a half in an attempt to convince the boy's father not to co-operate with the judicial authorities. Gallina, on the run for several months, was found in a hideout near the cemetery in Carini.

The head of the Cosa Nostra, Giovanni Brusca, had ordered the kidnapping in November 1994 after learning that Santo Di Matteo had become a state witness.

Brusca ordered the boy's killing after learning that he had been sentenced in abstentia to life in prison for killing Ignazio Salvo, the Sicilian businessman, because of the testimony of Santo Di Matteo.

Brusca was arrested in May 1996 and indicated at the time that he was also willing to co-operate with the authorities. But he has yet to be granted witness protection.

Five other suspects were arrested earlier this year for the kidnapping and death of the boy. *(AFP)*

Swiss link jailed Salinas to drugs

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

SWISS prosecutors investigating the frozen funds of Raúl Salinas de Gortari, the jailed brother of Mexico's former President, say they have linked him to the smuggling of "40 to 50 tons" of cocaine to the United States.

According to a letter leaked to the *Miami Herald* newspaper, the Swiss believe that Salinas, the brother of Carlos Salinas — Mexican President from 1988 to 1994 — "received enormous amounts of money for his help in connection to drug trafficking".

The letter, from Carla del Ponte, the Swiss Attorney-General, to her Mexican counterpart, is the first official indication of a drug connection to Mexico's former first family. If proven, the allegations would be highly embarrassing to Citibank, which handled the Salinas accounts, and would also confirm widespread suspicions of high-level drug corruption in Mexico.

They would also provide ammunition to those in the US Congress who are pressing the Clinton Administration to punish Mexico for its slackness in the drug war. President Clinton is due to make his first official visit to Mexico next month.

Rumours about Raúl Salinas's unexplained wealth have circulated since late 1995 when officials froze more than $100 million in his accounts in banks in Switzerland, Germany, France and America.

Carlos Salinas: letter implicates brother

Victory salute for war widows

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE tiny band of surviving Hong Kong war widows recently granted British passports were honoured yesterday by a special firing of the colony's noon-day gun.

Pulling the lanyard on the *Hotchkiss three-pounder*, built in Britain in 1900 and made famous by Noel Coward's song *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, was Jack Edwards, a veteran of the British defence of Hong Kong, who for years has been the widows' champion.

Mr Edwards, 78, was invited to take part in this daily event by Jardines, Hong Kong's most venerable trading house, which sponsors the gun-firings at the harbour's edge from what is still called Lot No 1, the first plot of Hong Kong land sold at auction, in 1841.

Mr Edwards had almost single-handedly forced the Home Office into the "U-turn" on the widows' and *wives' passports*. "They should have given them in 1981," Mr Edwards said. "There were 56 ladies then. Now there are 29, 19 of them widows. It's shameful. These women's husbands gave their lives for Britain. That's their right of abode — they lie dead in the British war cemeteries here."

But Mr Edwards had enjoyed the day. "It's the first time I've ever fired a gun for pleasure. In anger, plenty of times during the war." Accompanying him were two Chinese veterans of the war, Albert Chen, of the Hong Kong Chinese Regiment, and Wang Hon-Lee, of the Hong Kong Volunteers. Both displayed their medals, including Burma Stars and Bars, and both wore Chindit ties from the Burma campaign.

Mr Chen, like all such servicemen, holds a British passport. His wife Loretta received hers last November. "I think we'll stay here," she said. "But now it will be much easier to travel."

Mr Edwards was looking forward to his next struggle. "Next it's the Japanese. They've got to make a full official apology ... for what they did in China in 1936."

Spanish town gives official blessing to incestuous couple

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

A TOWN in northern Spain has decided to recognise love triangles and incestuous couples and give them the same rights as married couples.

The town of Cambre has opened a register where any "non-matrimonial unit" can place itself. Expected to put their names on the list are a brother and sister couple, Daniel and Rosa Maria Moya Peña, who live an openly incestuous relationship and have two children. "We are not interested in what people do behind closed doors, or what their sexual relationships might be," said Augusto Rey, the Socialist deputy mayor. "If they live together, than that is enough."

The Moyas will be able to apply for help with school transport, textbooks and out-of-school study programmes for their children, Cristina, 11, and Iván, 4, when they register. They say they have been accepted by the people of Cambre, a town of 15,000 in La Coruña province. The couple, who were brought up separately, say they met and fell in love 18 years ago without knowing they were brother and sister.

When Daniel, 38, who was raised by his father in La Coruña, and Rosa Maria, 42, who was sent to a Madrid orphanage, discovered the truth, they found it impossible to part. "We led a double life fleeing from Madrid to Alicante and from there to La Coruña, pretending that our children were our niece and nephew," Señor Moya told *El Pais* newspaper. "The people here have been fantastic. They have never looked down on us and the children have never had any problems at school," he added. The Moyas' incestuous relationship had helped to inspire the all-encompassing new register, Señor Rey admitted.

Although Cambre's register, approved at Wednesday night's council meeting, has legal effect only in town hall matters, the Socialist council hopes it will add to a national debate on common law marriage. A move by left-wing parties to include homosexual couples in a proposed new law was narrowly defeated in the national parliament by the centre-right Popular Party (PP) of José Maria Aznar, the Prime Minister, and its allies on March 18. The issue will be debated again next month.

Many Spanish towns and cities have already opened de facto registers for unmarried couples, and some have included homosexuals. But no town has gone as far as Cambre, whose Socialist council denies it is encouraging either incest or complex love relationships involving more than two people.

Señor Rey said: "If three elderly gentlemen who have decided to pool their pensions and live in the same house together want to register, then they can." He hoped that, if a common-law marriage were made legal, those who had registered would be able to use their dated entry to prove the length of their relationship in court.

PP councillors abstained in Wednesday night's vote. Jorge Trias, the party's parliamentary spokesman on social affairs, called the decision "shocking".

Moscow 'allows torture'

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SYSTEMATIC and barbaric torture is still widespread in Russia with prison inmates abused, assaulted and even asphyxiated, according to Amnesty International.

In a report released yesterday, the human rights organisation accused Moscow, which has signed the Convention against Torture, of passing legislation that contravened human rights standards and made violation easier. It said members of ethnic minorities were routinely beaten up by police, prisoners were used to ill-treat other prisoners, and doctors also were known to have co-operated in torture.

Detention often "amounted to torture". According to reports, prisoners died from overcrowding, lack of oxygen and poor conditions.

Amnesty said that on July 11 prisoners died of heat stroke in an overcrowded prison in Novokuznetsk. Up to 25 people were held in cells meant for ten, and air temperatures rose to 51C (123.8F). An attempted mass suicide had taken place at the jail in the previous year after beatings.

"It is clearly within the power of Russian authorities to take immediate measures to eliminate these illegal practices," Amnesty said, calling for them to be made offences.

Voting for the man in the street

Will Tony Blair's neighbours be supporting him in the general election? **Julian Kossoff** investigates

ROBIN MAYES

The Blairs' home, right, is not in the most chichi part of Islington, but in a quiet, pleasant street that is a bit tatty round the edges and home to a clutch of residents who criss-cross the social classes

Take a stroll through the fashionable, urban village of Barnsbury, an enclave of idiosyncratic Victorian squares, terraces and villas in the London borough of Islington and you cannot help but notice the healthy sprinkling of Vote Labour posters, adorning many a sash window.

Turn into Richmond Crescent and the trickle of posters turns into a flood. While in the surrounding streets it averages roughly one in ten, in Richmond Crescent the rate jumps to 20 out of 36 houses.

No 1 Richmond Crescent has two posters in the front window. This is to be expected because it *is* — for the time being — the home of Tony and Cherie Blair, their children, Euan, 13, Nicholas, 11, and Kathryn, 8, plus a live-in nanny.

Brenda McCormack, a crescent resident for 20 years, lives opposite No 1 and her poster display reflects the Blairs. She denies that the presence of the party leader and favourite for the next Prime Minister has stirred the crescent community into an ostentatious display of loyalty and support. "No, no. This is a street that has always had a lot of Labour supporters," she says.

Likewise, City solicitor Kate O'Rourke, 37, who has virtually blocked out the light to her living room with a record-breaking four posters is adamant that there has not been a "famous neighbour effect". "None whatsoever," she confirms. "I am actually a member of the Labour Party."

But there is more. Further down the street, a more expensive-looking property has a mere single poster in the window. This is the home of Margaret Hodge, the former leader of Islington Council, currently MP for Barking in east London. Likewise, Chris Smith, MP for Islington South & Finsbury (majority 10,652) for whom so many of the Richmond Crescent residents are kindly advertising. Smith, the Shadow Secretary of State for Health, could soon become the first ever gay politician to come out of the closet and get into the Cabinet.

When Blair was elected as leader of the Labour Party in 1994, Islington replaced Hampstead and Bloomsbury as a metaphor for the leftish chattering classes and the media went into a frenzy of speculation over the emergence of the "Islington Person". But many of the people living in Richmond Crescent did not even know who he was. "We had a street party several years ago and the Blairs came and they were a very friendly couple. People were saying 'Is that Tony Blair?' and others were saying 'Who is Tony Blair,'" recalls Ms McCormack.

The Blairs moved into Richmond Crescent four years ago, arriving from nearby Stoke Newington where the "stripped pine brigade" reside if they cannot quite afford the "toppy" Islington prices. Thanks to the reputed £200,000 salary of Cherie Booth, QC, they were able to put the deposit down on a house that would now sell for £500,000. But Richmond Crescent is not the "elegant terrace" of hyped press reports, nor is it the most chichi part of Islington. In terms of local status, it lags behind the prestigious Canonbury Square and the exquisite houses that line Grand Union Canal. Richmond Crescent is a quiet, pleasant street and an ideal place to bring up children, but it is also a bit tatty at the edges and home to a clutch of residents who criss-cross the social classes.

Indeed, the Blairs' view from their front window is of the peeling-paint façade of Angelo's Auto, owned by the eponymous gruff, middle-aged Greek, sporting a three-day growth. There are no political posters on the oil-stained walls of his small garage, where he bashes away at an old Astra, just a collection of pictures of topless, pneumatic blondes. His friends call him "Mafia" and it would appear he has taken a vow of *omertà*. He has been in business on the street for 20 years.

Asked if he sees much of Mr Blair, he replies enigmatically: "I do my business and he does his." Has he ever worked on Mr Blair's car? "No, not yet," he says appearing somewhat put out that his famous neighbour has never called upon his services.

Indeed, Mr Blair's family car *could* do with a bit of restoring. "A knackered old thing," is how Jim Wortley, 31, a designer who lives in a basement flat, describes the car. "He's quite a nice bloke actually," says Mr Wortley. "I often see him on a Sunday morning when I'm working on my MG and he always says hello."

Mr Blair's image as happy family man is accurate, says Mr Wortley. "It was really nice last year when I was coming back with the Sunday papers and reading about these massive sleaze stories, involving the Conservatives, and then I would see Mr Blair (after church) with his children piling into the knackered old Montego estate to go and play football or take them swimming." Mr Wortley says he voted Labour last time and will "probably" repeat the choice.

A few minutes later, Mr Wortley takes delivery of a pizza. Alan, the delivery man from Kings Pizzas in the nearby down-at-heel Caledonian Road, says he has delivered pizzas to the Blair household before. "I gave it to one of the boys."

"The boys" are the most obvious Blair family presence on the street. Frequently, they can be seen rollerskating or playing football in the street with the other local children. At one end the street, a wall has been converted into a goal with a chalk outline for the posts and cross bar.

"My brother plays with the kids, they get on well and just generally knock about the street together," says Lewellyn John, a 20-year-old studying natural sciences at Girton College, Cambridge, who has not decided whom to vote for. He is home for the Easter break, walking his dog.

He has met Mr Blair only once. "It was early and I was wandering around in my dressing-gown. Mr Blair knocked on the door. I didn't even know who he was. His car had skidded on the ice and hit my mother's Peugeot and he wanted to report it, although there was no damage at all. I would have just driven off," said Mr John.

Cherie Booth "*swans in and out*"

Mr Blair's stock is high in Richmond Crescent. A couple of residents mention "that grin" but give the impression that when delivered in person on a sunny Sunday morning it comes across as genuine. Cherie Booth is more aloof, they say. One female resident says: "You see her swanning in and out, looking powerful." Mr Blair, meanwhile, is rarely seen these days, apart from the quick dash from his front door to the Leader of the Opposition's limo.

The Blair children are universally popular. "They are just really *nice* kids," says Ms O'Rourke. Nor does she begrudge the Blairs' decision to abandon the local school system and send the boys to the grant-maintained London Oratory School in Fulham. "It is a matter of choice, isn't it?"

On the south side of the crescent, where the houses have been sub-divided into flats, many are still council-owned. "I am a Conservative at heart," says Stephen Flanaghan, 57, who is one of the most colourful characters of Richmond Crescent. He lives alone on a disability grant in one of the council flats, dabbling with a paintbrush and creating what we agree to describe as "libidinous art". He says the Blairs are nice people, but is less sure about Margaret Hodge. "She's never had any time for me really," he says.

A fervent monarchist with a huge picture of a young Queen by his bedside, he is also a supporter of a united Ireland. However, he has drawn up his own political poster and put it in the window. It reads "Vote for the Coalition Party". "I'd really like all the four parties (including the Greens) to work together," he says.

At the far end of Richmond Crescent, outside a small block of purpose-built council flats, Negus Walters, 85, is standing in front of his rose bushes — "my little show". He is a Tory strategist's dream, a hard-working, working-class man and a lifelong Conservative voter.

He is unimpressed by Mr Blair's efforts to modernise the Labour Party. "What I don't like about Labour is the unions, they are still too strong."

No For Sale sign has gone up alongside the election posters. But as Tony Blair ponders the possibility of moving from No 1 to No 10, he must be concerned about its impact on his family life after what appears to have been four very happy years in Richmond Crescent.

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS THE TIMES

FOUR MONTHS' FREE RHS MEMBERSHIP

The Times offers you four months' free membership of the Royal Horticultural Society during May, June, July and August. Membership benefits include a free monthly copy of *The Garden* (worth £2.75); unlimited free admission for two to RHS gardens Wisley, Rosemoor, Devon, and Hyde Hall, a further 21 beautiful gardens across England, plus one in Belgium; the opportunity to apply for special members' tickets to flower shows at Chelsea, Hampton Court, Malvern, Scotland's National Gardening Show and BBC Gardeners' World Live, as well as free entry to the monthly RHS shows in London.

Collect four membership tokens and attach them to the direct debit form printed tomorrow.

Save £10 on an RHS video

The Times, in association with the RHS offers you the opportunity to get an hour-long RHS gardening video, worth £14.99 by mail order, for only £3.60 including p&p. You can choose one video from the eight RHS Practical Guides listed in bold on the form, right. You can also save £2 off any of the 14 RHS videos listed which are normally £14.99 by mail order.

HOW TO APPLY

THE TIMES
THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
GARDEN VIDEO
TOKEN 5

THE TIMES
THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP
TOKEN 5

To order a video at £3.60 select one of the eight RHS Practical Guide videos featured in bold on the form, right, and attach three differently numbered garden video tokens. Make cheques and postal orders payable to Newnham Video Offer, and send them to: *The Times* Gardening Video Offer, PO Box 130, Terrington St Clement, King's Lynn PE34 4RH. The offer closes April 11, 1997.

If you have missed any tokens you can get up to two by sending a stamped sae to: *The Times* RHS Token Request, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN, specifying video or membership tokens.

RHS PRACTICAL GUIDES VIDEO ORDER FORM

Mr/Mrs/Ms .... Initials .... Surname ....

Address ....

.... Postcode ....

I enclose three tokens plus £3.60 for the following RHS Practical Guide video from the list of eight titles in bold capitals below:

....

Send me these titles at the special price of £12.99 each including p&p:

.... (qty) HERBS
.... (qty) CONTAINER GROWING
.... (qty) VEGETABLE GROWING
.... (qty) SOFT FRUIT GROWING
.... (qty) TOP FRUIT GROWING
.... (qty) WATER GARDENING
.... (qty) MAKING A SMALL GARDEN
.... (qty) THE SMALL GREENHOUSE AND CONSERVATORY
.... (qty) Wisley Through the Seasons: Spring
.... (qty) Wisley Through the Seasons: Summer
.... (qty) Wisley Through the Seasons: Autumn
.... (qty) Wisley Through the Seasons: Winter
.... (qty) The Gardens of South Africa
.... (qty) Rosemoor: A Garden in the Making

I enclose a cheque/PO made payable to: Newnham Video Offer.

Cheque value £ .... Cheque number ....

Write your name and address on the back of your cheque. Send this form to: *The Times* Gardening Video Offer, PO Box 130, Terrington St Clement, King's Lynn PE34 4RH. Allow 28 days for delivery. Offer applies to UK only and is subject to availability. Overseas prices are available on request. Offer closes Friday April 11, 1997.

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times* please tick this box ☐

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

CHANGING TIMES

Why I'm not backing Tony

Misha Glenny on the revolt just a few doors down the road

Richmond Crescent is a veritable fortress for new Labour. Not surprising, really, with the lord of the manor, Tony Blair, living at No 1. As if to underline his majesty, police are patrolling the little street 24 hours a day and imposing tough parking restrictions.

The crescent is ideal new Labour territory — elegant, Victorian terraced housing; most of the occupants earn £30,000-£200,000; and au pairs and nannies a-plenty. To gild Tony Blair's escutcheon with some street credibility, there are even some working-class families here. The only thing missing from this almost quintessential new Labour manor is a Spice Girl or two.

But just a few doors down from Mr Blair, I and a few other recusants have been plotting a *jacquerie*. Three lifelong Labour voters live in this house and one who will be going to the polls for the first time. The stirrings of revolt began a few weeks ago when one of us muttered that it was time to give the Monster Raving Loony Party a chance.

Before long a council of war was held. Three of us agreed to jettison the habits of a lifetime and not vote Labour. We are not staunch old Labour but the born-again market evangelism of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown sticks in our gullets. We cannot square certain principled beliefs about the health service and state education with the Shadow Chancellor's obsession about holding down the basic rate of tax. If we wanted a Tory government, we would vote Tory.

I admit to feeling guilty because I am convinced that Robin Cook has the requisite wit and cunning to make an excellent Foreign Secretary. But Mr Cook could not swing the council of war. Enough is enough. Our votes would go elsewhere.

The first-time voter, less curmudgeonly cynical than her elders, remains undecided. No fan of Tony Blair's, she nontheless likes Chris Smith, our local MP. In an admirable display of civic responsibility, she intends to check out the other local candidates to see if they are deserving of her vote.

We three elders should be faithful retainers in the forward march of new Labour. Middle-class, property owners, highly educated, congenital opponents of the Tories, yet all of us find Mr Blair's style too patronising and his programme unconvincing.

Are we an aberrant group of stick-in-the-muds? It is possible that we represent a psephologically insignificant sub-group of the chattering classes. But we might be more substantial than that.

At the last election, people told the pollsters that they would vote Labour and then voted Tory. It is possible that this time round, traditional Labour voters are saying that they will vote Labour and then won't be able to go through with it. But if not Labour, who? The Tories, I'm afraid, don't get a look-in. Apart from being seasoned enemies of the Tories, we all have personal reasons for wanting them out. I will have to wait many years before I recoup the £35,000 of negative equity acquired in the Tory boom years — this week's news about the rise in house prices barely dents the losses I sustained.

Lib Dems? Well, we all applaud their commitment to increasing tax to meet the costs of the public sector. The female elder, however, finds it impossible to vote for a party which boasts the anti-abortion campaigner David Alton as a member. She believed her problem solved when Swampy announced his candidature on the Never Mind the Ballots Party. But his announcement was an April Fool's jape.

One elder is voting Lib Dem. Following the Swampy debacle, the female elder, the most militant among us, has toyed with the heresy of returning to the Labour fold. This may well be Tony Blair's secret weapon — inertia triumphs because of the lack of a credible alternative. I will not vote Labour or Tory. Lib Dems remain the front-runners. But for the first time in an election, I intend to scrutinise every programme on offer — from local issues to the people who dress up as bunnies and penguins. May the best furry animal win.

● *The author is a writer on foreign policy who occasionally votes in British elections*

هكذا من الاعلام

When you're called Rupert Graves, you can't lose

The newest star of the West End on his unlikely journey from small-time circus clown to the Old Vic

Rupert Graves: brown-eyed gamin charm, with a hint of stubble on the chin he puts down to a mixture of "exhaustion and laziness"

"There is a lot of snobbery in acting," Rupert Graves says, "and being called Rupert doesn't hurt." For a while, after his film debut as Helena Bonham Carter's sweet younger brother Freddie in *A Room With A View*, the cachet bestowed by "Rupert" brought stiff invitations to Sloaney parties in Fulham.

People assumed he must be a scion of the poet Robert Graves's family. "I believe my brother was with you at Ampleforth," they would say. Whereupon Graves would remind them that he was at Wyvern Comprehensive, Weston-super-Mare. The lad has done awfully well since he left there at the age of 15 with one grade C in sociology. (So much for the contemporary insistence that there is no future for anyone without a fistful of grade As.) At least the school took him on a theatre trip to Bath, where he saw Warren Mitchell in *Death of A Salesman*, and thought, an actor's life for me.

He is having a great success in Peter Hall's first Old Vic rep season, in *Hurlyburly*, David Rabe's 1984 Broadway hit, a Mamet-like piece — fast, violent, funny, wisecracking. The opening night was theatrically historic. Eighteen minutes from the final curtain, Graves was in mid-speech when the stage manager rushed on stage and called the performance to a halt. The Old Vic was evacuated by a bomb scare. (Was this because the title *Hurlyburly* came from the Scottish play, Benedict Nightingale wondered.) The audience gathered, agog to know how it ended, on the grotty, wino-ridden Waterloo Road scrubland. So the cast bravely continued performing in the al fresco chill, sans props, shouting over the roar of passing buses. They deserved their standing ovation.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

"It was bizarre, surreal," Graves says. He has been fighting flu ever since.

He is a gamin figure, his chin stubbled from "exhaustion and laziness". A pack of Camels reposes on the table. Graves had cut down to six a day until this play, but Eddie — a man fuelled by alcohol and cocaine — is a heavy smoking part: "A consuming part, in every sense." Never tried coke himself? "God, no!" he shouts.

As a boy he learnt comic music-hall monologues (from his musician father, who taught piano) and hung out with a punk crowd on the less genteel side of the seaside town. At school he was "useless, inattentive, resisting, tired. I just found growing up very tiring. I was a moony boy, day-dreaming, often ill — glandular fever, lots of colds."

The local jobcentre had no acting jobs to offer. The nearest thing was a YTS apprenticeship with a small, old-fashioned travelling circus which had come to town and lost its clown. "I became Weedy the Clown in a purple suit. I used to hate circus clowns as a kid — silly, painful, overgrown fools." He said he has tried to write about his circus experience but "there aren't many personal dynamics in a circus: everyone just huddled in their caravans every night".

To go from the circus, via Butlin's at Skegness, to a leading role at the King's Head Theatre in Islington seems a fantastic leap of luck. But the director Dan Crawford remembers that when 18-year-old Graves arrived to audition as Kenneth Grahame's unhappy son (who put his head on the railway track) in *The Killing of Mr Toad*, "he was leagues ahead of all the others".

Natural aptitude, and brown-eyed charm, took him swiftly into the West End, and the National, and into roles such as the highly strung poet Marchbanks in Shaw's *Candida*. When Celestia Fox cast him as Freddie Honeychurch in *A Room With a View*, he says he blushed with terror throughout and they had to dub out the Somerset ("hote-wl", for hotel) in his accent.

"I thought I was so bad. I said to James Ivory: 'I'm so sorry, I've messed the whole film up,' and he said: 'It's all right, your part's not big enough to mess the whole thing up.'"

In another E.M. Forster film, *Maurice*, he played Scudder the gamekeeper, who climbs into Maurice's bedroom and seduces him. He seemed to be habitually offered sexually ambiguous roles — because of being pretty? "I think there was a fashion for gay roles," he says, "and once I'd done *Maurice* and *Torch Song Trilogy* — well, people are very unimaginative, aren't they?"

At 33, he enjoys domestic contentment in a small rented flat in Stoke Newington with his girlfriend Yvonne, a mature student reading history. "When I'm in a play she turns into an orphan. I just crash out or say 'be quiet, I'm learning my lines'." He said he was a loafer by nature. "I loaf in the local park with my greyhound Roland, as in Rat [he was named by the RSPCA]. We loaf together."

A busy sort of loafer. Ever since 1982 he has popped up all over the place: in the mud as Lysander in Robert LePage's extraordinary *Midsummer Night's Dream*; as sexy Otto in Sean Matthias's *Design for Living*; as the loyal equerry Greville in *The Madness of King George*; as the transvestite David/Davina in the televised drama of the Stephen Waldorf shootings; as the wretched son of Jeremy Irons in Louis Malle's *Damage*.

Last year alone, he was brilliantly cast against type as Huntingdon in *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, appeared with the RSC in *Les Enfants du Paradis*, and also made five films, three still awaiting release. I asked what they were about. He laughed. "Dangerous question. Actors always say: 'It's about me. I'm this butler . . .'"

In *Intimate Relations*, he is Harold Guppy, a violent, spineless lodger involved with his landlady, Julie Walters. In *Different For Girls*, he's a wastrel motorbike messenger who takes up with an old schoolfriend who has changed sex. In *Mrs Dalloway* he is the shell-shocked Warren Septimus Smith. "I'd never read any Virginia Woolf before, but the more I looked into her life the more I loved her. A dot on the wallpaper can open up whole worlds."

His diffidence about discussing roles in literary terms — "I shy away; I feel so uneducated" — makes the intelligence of his performances the more striking. In *Hurlyburly* he plays Eddie, a casting director "whose house in the Hollywood Hills has become a viper-pit of dysfunctional divorced men who bitch about women, play power games and behave very badly. Eddie watches his friendships disintegrate, which of course sends him batty. But the themes are so neatly woven, it's like trying to explain an embroidered shawl."

He now wants to write a short film, the kind that wins awards and gets bought by French television and makes money. He keeps working for minimal wages, or "deferred payments" in films. He is so un-self-absorbed, he has not even read his notices. They are very good. "It is worth crawling over broken glass to get to this production," said *Kaleidoscope*.

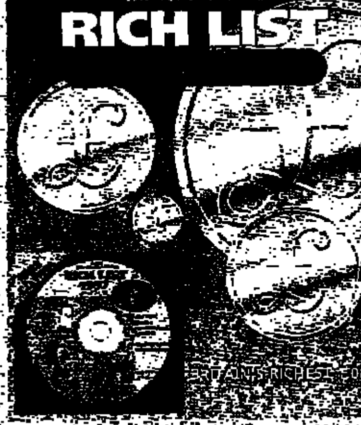
● Hurlyburly, *now extended to May, is on every Sunday and Monday at the Old Vic:* 0171-928 7616.

SECTION TWO

Pop on Friday: the Chemical Brothers rebuild rock — page 33

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THIS SUNDAY YOU MAY EXPERIENCE A DEADLY SIN.



ENVY.

In The Sunday Times this Sunday look out for the Rich List. A free 60-page guide and CD-Rom that list the 1,000 richest people in Britain, just how wealthy they are and how they made their millions. For those of us without millions, there's also 30 hours free Internet access from Line One. LineOne

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Why should we thank the Tories?

The economy still has structural flaws, says **Tessa Blackstone**

It would be very surprising if the British economy were not doing quite well at present. We are at the most favourable part of the economic cycle, the last recession several years astern, unemployment falling and with little sign of inflation picking up. The Tories are naturally anxious to take full credit. In effect, they say: "Look, it's a wonderful dawn, aren't we clever?" The electorate, however, is unimpressed. Experience has taught that night tends to follow day. And even if the crowing of the cock marks the dawn, no one thinks the bird is responsible.

The Government cannot complain if the voters do not give it credit. No one can recall Messrs Major, Clarke and Heseltine campaigning in 1992, in the midst of recession, on the slogan "It's all our fault". The recession was a global phenomenon, we were assured; everyone in the world was suffering: the British Government was not responsible. That our recession was much worse than that in most other countries was not acknowledged.

Even now, the efforts to take credit are hilariously selective. Inflation? The lowest in years; no mention of its being among the highest in Europe. Growth? Faster than almost anywhere else in Europe, we are told; no mention of its being unimpressive by historical standards.

There is justice in the public scepticism. Ken Clarke's "sound macroeconomic judgments" were forced on the Government, kicking and screaming, by the failure of its exchange-rate mechanism policy. Mr Major entered at the wrong rate, as Labour said at the time, ignored the effect of German reunification, and then spent billions of pounds in a vain attempt to avoid humiliating ejection.

Taxation policy has also been a shambles. It is normal for interest rates to go up and down, but the Tories' fiscal yo-yo is a sure sign of incompetence. If cutting income tax rates immediately before this election was justified, how can it have been right to have been putting so many taxes up just 12 months before? The Government had a massive fiscal blow-out before the 1992 election — courtesy of Chancellors Major and Lamont — which eventually drove public borrowing to nearly £50 billion a year, just under 8 per cent of gross domestic product. Twenty-two tax increases followed the election. The last lot were barely on the books before Mr Clarke changed tack again in November 1996.

And there is no escape in looking at a longer perspective. The outstanding feature of 18 years of Tory macroeconomic policy has been instability. Our economy has been twice as unstable as Germany's over the past 20 years and one and a half times as unstable as those of the US, Japan and Italy. Britain has spent longer in recession than other developed nations. We have had two massive recessions, which destroyed about a quarter of our industrial capacity, and a reckless consumer boom in between based on exploding asset prices. The last time the people were regaled with talk about an economic renaissance was in the Lawson boom. They ended up facing soaring unemployment and negative equity on their houses.

This time the recovery is more modest, partly because the public is cautious. They have learnt their lesson. They will save more, borrow less and not believe what they are told by ministers. Polls show that people's expectations are low. They know that beneath the massaged unemployment statistics the reality is of only slow growth in employment, still not back to pre-recession levels after five years of "recovery", and that half the new jobs are part-time, temporary and low-paid.

No one thinks this unimpressive recovery could be safely accelerated by more government spending or by easy money. Labour has acknowledged that with the Government still borrowing heavily there can be no overall increase in public expenditure. But the Tory reforms have totally failed to strengthen Britain's productive potential. Even now, the recovery is consumer-led, with overall investment hardly growing at all, and investment in manufacturing actually down by 9 per cent in 1996. The Government seems to care about investment only when it is foreign. It is the persistent neglect of domestic investment that has undermined the country's productive base. No wonder that while the Tories crow about consumer-driven growth, the City and the Bank of England fret about inflation and higher interest rates. With more than 1.6 million unemployed, could there be more eloquent testimony to the enfeebled state of the supply side of the economy?

> The Tories care about investment only if it is foreign

What it shows is that all the labour market "reforms", all the privatisations, all the starvation of public services and growth of inequality have achieved in aggregate nothing that can be measured, no increase at all in our sustainable growth. The real, deep structural weaknesses in the British economy have been missed and allowed to fester: our inadequate training, our relatively declining research and development, our élitist educational system that neglects half our people, our high real interest rates and our short-term management, which result in inadequate investment. As the Commission on Public Policy and British Business summarised it, to the fury of Michael Heseltine, Britain has "too many inefficient and poorly run companies; too many underachieving people; too little investment in research innovation and physical capital".

That is the real indictment of Conservative economic policy. Tackling those structural weaknesses will be the task of the next Labour government. Labour's policies will be driven by the need to increase investment in industrial capacity, in people and in ideas.

Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the Lords.

No Labour sleaze — yet

There are lots of sticks with which to beat the Blairites, but who wants to know?

Matthew Parris

Soho is becoming more gay, in both senses. The area is less sleazy than in days when heterosexual clip-joints and dirty cinemas set the scene. Now Soho is dominated by coffee bars and bistros, and a more cheerful, stylish, above-board atmosphere prevails. Casually dressed young men, their hair slightly too clean and their clothes slightly too cool — men who take a little more trouble with their appearance than a man ought — queue for their cappuccinos or promenade in groups and pairs. So far from being furtive, this crowd is there to be seen.

A few hundred yards away, just off Trafalgar Square and not a mile from the Houses of Parliament, is a bar more representative of the half-submerged homosexual scene of the old London. It is in a basement. Its name is Brief Encounter. The atmosphere here — noisy and sweaty — is conducive to encounters of a rather casual, if close, kind. You would not call the venue hidden, but while opera-goers from the Coliseum ambling past the entrance on a warm evening in early spring might sense the heat and bustle below the street, Brief Encounter has never been a place to pose. Once out onto the pavement, many of its customers aim to slip, unnoticed, into the night.

It was on such an evening not many weeks ago that I was walking with a friend along St Martin's Lane. Near the entrance to Brief Encounter we ran into someone who is known to me. He is quite a senior Labour MP, a married man. He was with a friend, a man whom we also both know.

We exchanged greetings. The Labour MP, a good man who knows he can trust me, seemed distracted. "We've just had a rather unpleasant moment in Brief Encounter . . ." he began. His friend silenced him. The implication was clear. My friend and I moved to silence him too. We sensed without speaking that even among friends there are things best not disclosed unless there is a reason, because what we do not know we need not conceal. I had no wish to know.

And even if I did, nothing — no principled argument about gay rights, no desire to ingratiate myself with Conservative Central Office, no offer of money from a tabloid newspaper . . . no, not even a million pounds, not even an argument for self-preservation — would induce me to tell anyone the Labour MP's name. There are three reasons.

First, because I do not disapprove of his behaviour. It might have been foolish, but the world is a strange place and, trapped by circumstance, people behave strangely. I am disinclined to judge. Second, because, even if one did disapprove, to tell others — and especially the sensationalist press — would be dishonourable. For readers of *The Times* that hardly requires elucidation.

Either of these arguments alone would seal my lips. Together they are unanswerable. But there is a third reason to reject any idea of trying to purvey this tittle-tattle. Few would want to buy it.

A tabloid editor might, I suppose, toy with the idea of running the story on an inside page, if only (given all the Tory stories) to create a half-hearted impression of balance; but a moment's thought suggests it would be an also-ran. The truth is that "Labour sleaze" is not the flavour of the hour. The press are hardly interested in it. Peregrine Worsthorne, writing this week in London's *Evening Standard*, says: "It is difficult to believe that there are not some Labour politicians around who could be exposed if the Tory newspapers were really trying. Are they trying, and, if not, why not? In my view, they are not trying . . ."

And of course there is Labour sleaze. Journalists who follow these affairs, reading of my chance meeting in St Martin's Lane, will turn their minds immediately to half a dozen or so Labour MPs: the usual suspects. I must tell them that my friend was none of these. The Commons is full of surprises. As for the heterosexual side of things, where there is life there is adultery; and, despite appearances, there is life in new Labour.

There is financial scandal there, too, though I suspect rather less than among Conservatives. It is in local government that Labour sleaze outstinks the Tories, and there are some shocking local government stories in the air at present. Local government is always a turn-off for the national press, but in this atmosphere of heightened electoral tension nothing would be easier than to invite Tony Blair to show what he would call "leadership" by condemning or expelling alleged miscreants — and then make an issue of his response.

Let me share a secret with you: the British press is unlikely to bother. Consciously in some cases, unconsciously in others, nobody is looking for a stick with which to beat the Labour Party, though plenty of sticks lie around us. Just imagine, for instance, that it was John Major who had first challenged Tony Blair noisily and repeatedly to a televised debate. Imagine then that, to everyone's surprise, Blair had accepted. Suppose then that, after a week's argy-bargying, Major had withdrawn, even though Blair was finally prepared to accept all the broadcasters' terms. Think how contemptuously the press would have presented Major's running away!

"Any place, any time!" I ask you! The Labour leader's wriggling, now that his challenge has been accepted, from the very debate he has been shouting for, is the sort of unseemly spectacle at which the dogs of the press and their cartoonist friends could bark and snap for days, all across their front pages, were they disposed to. They are not disposed to. I find the response of the British media to the Blair-Mandelson cop-out — a response which has ranged from an amusedly raised eyebrow on the inside pages to complete silence — quite breathtaking.

Some in the press do feel uncomfortable about this, but not many and not very. In much the way Tony Blair has begun to talk about the reforms of the 1980s as though "the Eighties", rather than a group of Conservative women and men, had enacted those reforms (so that to challenge them would be "going back on the past" — end of argument), so journalists prefer to see themselves as reporting the news, rather than making it. There is a weird tendency among newspapermen to describe the operation of their own judgment as though it were a phenomenon of nature, rather than the exercise of personal choice. Thus, a colleague may remark, "I don't think that Labour sleaze story has legs". This is media-speak for "the story will soon disappear from the newspapers". But why will it disappear? Only if we stop putting it there will it disappear. Stories have no legs but the legs we give them.

"I doubt whether this is a story," one may hear. This means "I doubt if my editor wants to make it a story". It is as though the journalist wished unconsciously to airspray himself, and his own role, out of the picture; as though we lived in a world where "stories" were almost physical entities, born to live, thrive, languish and die as flesh-and-blood creatures do; and we were only the midwives and undertakers, watching, taking photographs and writing it down, as nature, relentless, pitiless and unswerving, takes her course.

Are we scared of ourselves, we in the media? Are we ashamed of our own power, embarrassed by our influence, nervous at the hands we hold to the very windpipe of those whom we suffer to live or die? Are we afraid that if our role were to be fully described and properly acknowledged, we might be brought to account? Do we lie awake at night, having penned our glorifications or vilifications of those elected politicians who claim the democratic right to govern, and wonder what democratic legitimacy attaches to our own part in that government? And if we govern too, what "standards in public life" might be applied to our own lives?

In the end, we take refuge in numbers. Millions, we muse, choose to buy our paper or switch on our programme. Nobody forces them to. Their choice reflects confidence in . . .

In what? How can they know what is going on, when they have only our word for it? How can they choose, when we, as a media pack, simply follow each other around, barking? Are we made in our readers' image, or are they reflecting ours? Or is it a hall of mirrors, reflections of reflections, echoes amplifying echoes, rising and dying according to laws we cannot know?

There will be no Labour sleaze in this election. The media have commanded it. The election will then return a Labour government. The media will then declare that the people have spoken, and the media have spoken for the people. After that, there will be Labour sleaze. The media will command it. Their vengeance will be terrible.

So I say to my brief encounter in St Martin's Lane, and to some of his friends: from May 2, watch out. What they will do to you will be as unfair as what, to your evident satisfaction, they are now doing to the Tories.

Fury of an inquisitor scorned

Nicholas Wapshott on Paxo's outburst

The stalwarts of the Garrick Club bar may rue the day they blackballed Jeremy Paxman when they read the interview with him in today's *New Statesman*. For in his withering remarks about John Major, Labour worthies and the way the BBC runs things, he has shown that he is undoubtedly one of them: forthright, opinionated and indiscreet. It comes as no surprise, perhaps, to discover that Paxo is at heart a young curmudgeon, since he has built his reputation on bullying politicians on *Newsnight* and harrying stammering students on *University Challenge*.

But who would have thought he would be so rash as to blow off steam in print at this stage of the election? Kingsley Amis, in his *Lucky Jim* phase, might well have said, "One of the problems is that the English have this obsession with looking back. The rural idyll was out of date when Baldwin talked about it and ludicrous when Major did. Warm beer, old folk cycling to Communion, cricket on the village green — all that bollocks that the Tory conference did three years ago." But Amis would not have added, as Paxman did, "Don't use the word bollocks."

And you can hear the Amis of *The Old Devils* saying "Of course I get impatient, and sometimes I'm afraid I let it show. One shouldn't really. But it's very difficult to remain calm when you're listening to someone talk complete bollocks." Not to mention "Wonderful to see all these people getting their snouts in the trough, isn't it? I mean the new Labour aristocracy. Why are we supposed to believe that filling the Lords with a few hand-picked placemen and women is more democratic than having a bunch of hereditary peers?"

There is more. All those who have groaned at the Dimbleby brothers' monopoly of election-night television will nod at Paxman's complaint. "It is part of the constitution in this country that all major events have to be presented by a Dimbleby." And he needs little prompting to bite the hand that feeds him. Answering John Birt's criticism of him as "sneering", he replies to the BBC's Director-General: "Incredulity, scepticism maybe. But sneering I don't like."

But if Paxman's strength is his ability to ask the pointed questions, to treat politicians as hostile witnesses in the dock and, on being fobbed off, to give the incredulous slow burn to camera which Dame Edna reserves for guests who have inadvertently let out a double-entendre, it is also his weakness. Politicians are usually so keen to get on television that they will risk all sorts of indignities, even a rough ride with Paxman. But with May 1 looming they may just say no.

In the old days, when the term "spin-doctor" meant nothing more sinister than a Sadler's Wells physiotherapist, Wilson, Heath and Callaghan obeyed the taxi-rank rule and took who they were given. Margaret Thatcher changed all that, as she changed so many other things. She traded Robin Day for Jimmy Young and later, in her bunker years, she would grant audiences only to those she knew would temper their polite probing with some quiet fawning. David Frost and Alastair Burnet were both gentle with her; coincidentally both were knighted by her. Arise Sir Jeremy? I don't think so.

The only exception to this rule is the *Today* programme and its hosts James Naughtie and John Humphrys. Despite breakfast television, the Radio 4 flagship still sets the tone of the political day. And while both Humphrys and Naughtie have, like Brian Redhead before them, been accused, on air, of political bias, they are protected by the power of their audience. Take too many liberties with that nice Mr Naughtie, such a reassuring friend when introducing those lovely live opera relays, and half of Middle England will hit you over the head with their umbrellas.

But if this is a difficult time for politicians to be interviewed, it is also a difficult time to be an interviewer. Paxman has had his three bites at the cherry, interviewing each party leader in turn. Major tried to ingratiate; Blair blanched; and Ashdown very nearly leapt out of his chair and punched him on the nose for impertinently dismissing his party as a waste of time. But that is the election as good as over for Paxo. Thanks to good media management by the parties, he won't get a fourth bite.

Instead on election night, as he told Mary Riddell, the man who asks the questions the licence-fee payers would like to ask will be "sitting in a little pen at the side of the studio" watching Dimbleby *major* take the limelight. It is an odd use of resources. Would a major American network waste such a popular asset in this way? (And would a major American media star put up with it?)

But wait. The good electors of Tatton are looking for an honest, upright, non-partisan champion to stand as the anti-sleaze candidate against Neil Hamilton. The stainless candidate must be fiercely articulate and fearlessly frank, the Gilbert Harding of our time. A thorough knowledge of the frailties of politicians and an ability to cut through the verbiage would be an asset. If only the *Newsnight* Strangler were available.

Uncertified

LIKE certain dotty old men, the Referendum Party behaves with deranged logic. When it decided to send out millions of copies of a promotional video, it did not count on thousands of them being sent back. Cue operational meltdown.

The week before last, 2,000 videos were returned to the party's Westminster headquarters in a single day. Sackloads arrived by the hour, either because the addresses no longer exist, or with abusive messages from ungrateful recipients.

As the mail men sweated, the flood of videos spilt out of the mailroom into the corridors. "Cripes," thought party officials, "what if fierce, super-efficient Sir James Goldsmith sees this?" So they called a crisis meeting with Royal Mail and the mailshot company in Bedford. It was agreed that the Royal Mail would forward all returned videos to the Bedford company, where they now sit in a warehouse.

"The Referendum Party has advised us not to dicuss sensitive political matters," says the mailshot company, BTB Mailflight.

Bernard Shrimsley, the Referendum Party's chief press officer was more forthcoming. "When you consider that well over a million videos have been sent out so far, the returns have been infinitesimal," he says confidently. "We will be redistributing the returned videos." And so the cycle begins again.

"I want to report a suspicious package"

- *With fears of a hosepipe ban once again making news, groundsmen at Aintree are working overtime to get the course ready for Saturday's Grand National. In the 48 hours before the race, the parched course will be saturated with more than 200,000 gallons of water.*

Money talks

LITERARY talk is that Louis de Bernières, author of the tremendous *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, has been approached by Transworld Publishing for a two-book deal worth £350,000.

He may yet nudge the whopping £500,000 achieved by Martin Amis last year. Decidedly reluctant with the facts, but unable to deny the gossip, de Bernières says: "My agent will kill me. I have had plenty of lunches recently. Transworld is just one of many . . . you will just have to wait and see."

A'leaping

FROM his comfortable billet in the lush South African suburb of Constantia, Earl Spencer has taken matters in hand at Althorp, his family's Northamptonshire home.

He has ordered estate agents to sell five more ancestral titles to raise money to restore the house where he (and Diana, Princess of Wales) grew up.

When faced with a £200,000 plumbing bill last summer, Spencer simply sold five titles, including the lordship of Wimbledon — which sold for £171,000 on its own, boosted by contrived speculation about Boris Becker's interest.

This time round, Spencer is offering the lordships of Wandsworth, Battersea and others, including that of Lower Boddington. As he said last time: "Frankly there are so many of these titles that I'm not going to miss the ones that go."

- *All traces of Labour's gnarled old image were expunged from the manifesto released yesterday. For one illustration, designers had planned to use a picture of an earthy couple buying apples at their local market. Shadowy advisers vetoed the picture and replaced it with Mr and Mrs Middle-Class picking at shelves in a gleaming supermarket — which is where new Labour voters shop.*

Bonkers

THANKS for the latest supermarket bonkbuster go to Soka Gakkai, the lay organisation of Nichiren Diashonin's Buddhism.

Julia Stephenson, aged 32, the daughter of a Surrey-based furniture tycoon and a former girlfriend of Dame Barbara Cartland's grandson, Viscount Lewisham, claims that it was the Buddhist group that inspired her to write *Pandora's Diamond*, a book about one middle-class woman's escape into the Eurotrash and carciofo mushroom set.

"Desperation, and the fear of an entry in *The Guinness Book of Records* as the oldest virgin in history," the book promises, lead Pandora "to feng shui, an ancient science which enables her to take control of her destiny."

Julia Stephenson

Lord Lewisham will make an appearance in the book, but Miss Stephenson, like her heroine, is no lingering romantic. "I've written much more about his house than about him. It's so much more interesting."

P·H·S

[illegible]

LABOUR'S DAY

A summary of the new: an opportunity for more

It is tempting for journalists to say that Labour's manifesto, published yesterday, contained "nothing new". Unlike the Tories' offering, there were only a few, minor policies that had not been trailed and published in advance. Nowhere in its 40 pages of small print do the words "socialist" or "socialism" appear — but then that was an absence that we have all been long schooled to expect.

Yet, there is danger of observing the tenets of daily journalism and missing the march of political history. Unlike the Conservatives, Labour does not need to add gleaming new nuggets of policy in a bid to recover support. What Labour did yesterday was to produce a manifesto which fully represented the changes that the party has already made to itself.

The party's last remaining nationalising commitment, to restore the railways to public ownership, has been quietly dropped between the draft manifesto last year and now. Its long-held belief in taxing the rich more heavily has been replaced by a promise not to increase the top rate of income tax. The transformation is not total. Labour is still agreeing to meet union demands for recognition at the workplace, signing the social chapter and introducing a minimum wage. These policies now look rather musty next to the shiny new vision for the rest of society. But even these are a powerful dilution of the promises that John Smith made to his paymasters.

The most welcome conversion is to the understanding that public spending is not the solution to all problems. In the past, even as recently as 1992, Labour believed that poverty could be alleviated simply by raising the level of social security benefits by a few pounds a week. Now the party accepts that gaining work and financial independence is a far better route out of deprivation than depending on the State. In education, too, Tony Blair now admits that much can be done to improve standards without spending money: grading pupils in sets by subject instead of teaching classes of mixed ability would, for example, improve levels of achievement at both ends of the spectrum.

Mr Blair made much yesterday of the question of trust. Labour suffers doubly from this problem. Because of its past record in government, there is a reluctance to trust it with power. And because of the Tories' recent record in government, there is a reluctance to trust any party's promises. Hence the modesty of Labour's election pledges and Mr Blair's "guiding rule" — "not to promise what we cannot deliver; and to deliver what we promise."

If Mr Blair wins, and he does achieve what he promises to achieve — mainly small-scale, incremental reforms — then he must calculate that he will be able to put to rest some of the public's suspicions about Labour in particular and about politicians in general. This manifesto, therefore, is very much one aimed at securing a second term.

There is a danger that, in its very tentativeness, it will make life harder for Mr Blair should he win power. The manifesto contains promises of no fewer than ten "reviews", two "consultations" and two "commissions". It is all very well to be told that Labour plans to review pensions, or child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds, or vehicle excise duty (voters, please note) but it goes only halfway. The electorate has a right to choose between two different reforms of pensions, not between one detailed proposal and the prospect of a review under another party.

It is understandable that Mr Blair should be cautious about putting down concrete proposals which will create some financial losers. But he is far ahead in the polls; he ought to feel safe in taking that risk. If he ducks it today, he can expect far more difficulty if and when he needs to take unpopular decisions in government. Now is the time for him to look to his mandate as well as his victory.

CHAMPION OF EMU

Chancellor Kohl goes on and on towards monetary union

The decision by Helmut Kohl to stand again as Chancellor of Germany closes off one of the easiest, if least plausible, escape routes for British policy towards Europe — the possibility that Germany would simply lose interest in creating a single currency and a federal Europe. So identified has Herr Kohl become with the push for economic and monetary union that many opponents of the enterprise believe that it is only his political dominance in Germany that is keeping EMU alive.

In truth, his decision to stand again is more personal and more parochial. Having already held office for longer than any postwar German leader, he is now preoccupied with ensuring that his achievements do not unravel. He wants his place in history to end on a note of triumph. For him, that means the successful conclusion of the policies to which he has devoted himself so single-mindedly: European integration, the anchoring of Germany in Europe, preventing the mark from being seen by neighbours as an instrument of German domination and extending the zone of Western security beyond Germany's borders.

Herr Kohl also wants another term for his Christian Democratic-led coalition. This, he believes, can be ensured only if he is there to lead it. The likelihood, fuelled by rumours of family entreaties for him to retire, is that he would leave office halfway through his next term. This would enable him to install his nominee as successor — most probably Wolfgang Schäuble, the sharp-minded, and hard-working but wheelchair-bound CDU parliamentary leader.

The Chancellor has just received a renewed pledge of loyalty from Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister and leader of the Bavarian sister party, the CSU. He has quelled a potential tax revolt among his disaffected Free Democrat coalition partners. He appears fit despite earlier rumours of health worries. And his domination of his party and his country is unquestioned.

Nevertheless, he faces serious political risks. With more than four million unemployed, growing industrial militancy, worries about German competitiveness and the chasm still between east and west Germany, the mood is turning against Herr Kohl. Many Germans have still not realised that their welfare system has become unaffordable and that annual improvements in living standards may be a thing of the past. They do not understand why Herr Kohl is quietly attempting to make the CDU more like a cost-cutting, free-market conservative party and less a vehicle of the "social dimension" that brought it working-class support.

Herr Kohl may reckon that the opposition Social Democrats still show no grasp of changed realities nor ability to pick a leader with the nerve and ruthlessness to challenge the Chancellor. But that may not insulate the CDU coalition from voter weariness with the same Government year after year. Neither does it guarantee that the electorate will continue to support a policy as unpopular as monetary union just because the Chancellor has made it his own.

When Herr Kohl made his birthday announcement he had no thought for the British elections and the problems of our parties in agreeing a policy on Europe and the single currency. But the single currency will also be central to Germany's elections next year. His greatest ambition may yet prove to be Herr Kohl's undoing.

IN THE BLOOD

Some families will be fortunate in the next Parliament

Hereditary peers may be an endangered species if Labour is elected. The hereditary Member of Parliament stands ready and willing to take their place. Earlier this week we reported on the candidacies of Anne and John Cryer, widow and son of Barry, the late MP for Bradford South. Today, we note the campaigns of Elizabeth Peacock and her son Jonathan, who are fighting adjacent constituencies in Yorkshire.

It is almost impossible for both pairings to succeed and rather difficult for just one. Labour's majority must reach 101 to elect the Cryers. A Tory majority of 127 would be required to endorse both Peacocks. A hung Parliament would be enough to dispose of both of them. But other family connections are likely to be more fortunate. There are no fewer than 14 examples of candidates closely related to other candidates in this election.

The Bottomleys and Wintertons were the only married couples in the Parliament just ended. There is every chance that there will be three others if Margaret Ewing, Alan Keen, and Rhodri Morgan are all joined by their partners. A Labour majority would see Ann Keen enter the House not just with her husband but her sister, Sylvia Heal, as well. Fergus Ewing currently has a wife in Westminster and his mother, Winnie, in the European Parliament. The Eagle sisters — Labour's Angela and Maria — seem certain to serve together.

Parliamentary dynasties are not unusual, of course. The Astors, Cavendishes, Chamberlains, Cranbornes, Churchills, and Lloyd Georges have dominated British politics in this century. This contest will be the first for nine decades in which the electors of Southend West will not be offered a member of the Channon clan. In the past, though, son succeeding father was usually the order of the day. Married couples, and sisters, were extremely unusual. The combination of relationships available this time has never been matched before.

A greater mystery is why these special sets of families feel the compulsion to enter politics in the first place. Almost all careers end in some sort of failure and with precious little public gratitude for the trouble. What special feature of DNA produces the irresistible urge to kiss babies, wear ridiculous rosettes and stand upon soapboxes?

It is hard to imagine how their lives can preserve the slightest trace of normality. The week must be a ceaseless whirl between chamber, committee and constituency. The culture of Westminster normally destroys marriages: it hardly seems the ideal place to conduct one. Most MPs complain that they scarcely have the time to see their children. Perhaps the Cryers and Peacocks have got it right after all. The only way to avoid the problem of never being at home is for the family all to sit in the House together.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Race as an issue in current campaign

From Bishop Joe Aldred and others

Sir, Judging from recent articles in the press by Nicholas Budgen, the Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South West — eg, "We ignore immigration at our peril", *The Times*, March 18 — it seems that he and some of his colleagues are determined to raise this as an issue in the general election campaign. As leaders within the Christian communities of the West Midlands, we consider such action to be unacceptable.

Issues of race are real in the daily experience of many of those for whom we have spiritual responsibility or social concern. The rising number of reported and unreported racial attacks and the very considerable gap in the unemployment rate between black and white communities are two of many instances of a considerable problem.

All the main political parties are signatories to the *Principles of Good Practice and Conduct for Political Campaigners*, published recently by the Commission for Racial Equality. In this they undertake "to ensure that in any dealing with the public, no words or actions are used which may stir up racial hatred or lead to racial prejudice".

We urge all those involved in the current campaign to adhere to those guidelines.

Yours sincerely,
JOE ALDRED,
Director,
Black and White Christian Partnership,
†MICHAEL BOURKE,
Bishop of Wolverhampton,
†MAURICE COUVE de MURVILLE,
Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham,
CHRISTINA LE MOIGNAN
Free Church Moderator, Birmingham,
†MARK SANTER,
Bishop of Birmingham,
West Midlands Region
Churches Forum,
Carrs Lane Church Centre,
Birmingham B4 7SX.
April 2.

Election 97

From Mr R. M. Matheson

Sir, The Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown makes a great deal of the "22 Tory tax increases" (report, April 3), about which he clearly feels strongly. If Labour wins the election can we therefore look forward to 22 tax cuts?

Yours faithfully,
R. M. MATHESON,
Well Manor,
Well, Hook, Hampshire.
April 3.

From Mrs Elizabeth J. Swift

Sir, I would be interested to know which 748 organisations Reed Personnel Services surveyed to reach the conclusion that "a huge majority of UK businesses" feel it would make no difference or they would be more successful if the Government changed (report, Business, March 24).

As the owner of a small business I am very much concerned at the prospect of a Labour victory and have yet to speak to anyone from a small company who is not. A minimum wage, along with shorter hours, will no doubt see a lot of us off.

Being able to remember the last Labour Government, I will not be swayed by the silent tactics of Prescott, Cook, Beckett, etc, and will know that the predicted 3 per cent growth and continuing fall of unemployment will be thanks to my company, my contemporaries and the Conservative Government.

Yours faithfully,
E. SWIFT (partner),
Langwith Metal Finishers,
Rawreth Industrial Estate,
Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh, Essex.
April 1.

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg (article, March 24) writes that Tony Blair is resented by many Scottish Labour supporters as an Englishman with a fancy accent who has hijacked their party.

That, in my opinion, seems to be even truer of the feelings of many Welsh Labour supporters, who believe that they are being offered an assembly as an afterthought simply because the London leadership promised a parliament to Scotland. By denying the proposed Welsh assembly any real powers, the Labour Party creates the impression that it discriminates against Wales. At the same time the large English element in Wales has been antagonised.

The outcome of the general election in Wales may well contain some surprises.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD FORREST,
Delfryn,
Castle Morris,
Nr Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.
March 24.

From Mr Michael Lockett

Sir, The Reverend John Wynburne (letter, March 28) hopes that Mr Tim Smith's gifts will be "amply and creatively used" in the future. Which gifts has he in mind?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LOCKETT,
Horsepond House,
Millway Lane, Palgrave, Suffolk.
March 28.

End of an era for railway network

From Mr Mark Woolley

Sir, You are fully justified in looking forward with optimism to the new era of a privately owned railway network (leading article, April 1). There can be little doubt that the frequent shifts in policy and restrictions in funding by successive governments over the past 50 years served only to stifle the nationalised railway of the investment it deserved.

It is now becoming increasingly obvious that many towns which lost their railways during this period and have since expanded significantly would now be well placed to profitably support a rail service. Unfortunately, due to piecemeal redevelopment of former railway property, there is little likelihood of these routes ever being reopened, and many now sizeable communities have lost an important transport link forever.

Let us hope that through a combination of imaginative, newly formed railway operators and more enlightened planning policies by local authorities we will eventually see at least some areas regaining their lost railways, as has been the case in the Isle of Purbeck.

Yours faithfully,
MARK WOOLLEY
(Secretary,
The Southern Steam Trust),
Station House, Swanage, Dorset.
April 1.

From Mr Barry S. Doe

Sir, When I left teaching in 1983 to become a public transport consultant I did so in the belief that our corporate, national rail system had a great future. I never joined British Rail but would have been proud to do so, for I found myself working with excellent managers — young people with good degrees from top universities who had given their life to BR in a belief similar to my own.

I have nothing against privatisation, and it could have been a great success — but only with a British Rail plc. The parts of the fragmented railway will never work together — indeed they were created to compete with each other.

We will never see anything again like the bold initiatives of BR's recent era, such as London Travelcard, railcards and Saver tickets, for the fragmented companies can only plan for themselves. Indeed, even corporate advertising of the rail system is dead. None of these problems, nor those of through ticketing and routeing guides, would have existed with a BR plc.

And what of those excellent BR managers? Most have been "put out to grass" in their early 50s, replaced by new blood — quite often bus managers who have presided over a substantial loss in custom in their own industry over a period when rail patronage did not decline.

How I mourn already for what could have been. The fault lay entirely with a government belief that BR was inefficient and that anyone could do better. How wrong this was — yet Labour, of course, will do nothing about it. I predict, Sir, that within a short time we shall all miss BR very much.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY S. DOE,
25 Newmorton Road,
Moordown, Bournemouth, Dorset.
April 1.

From Mr Keith Auton

Sir, I see that the last BR train pulled out only 24 minutes late (report, April 1). A call for renationalisation?

Yours etc,
KEITH AUTON,
5 Humberstone Road,
Andover, Hampshire.
April 2.

Patients' rights

From Dr John Harding Price

Sir, The recent judgment by Mr Justice Wall that a 16-year-old anorexic patient could be detained in a clinic against her will in order to undergo feeding treatment (report, March 13; letter, March 22) has wide implications for patients.

The severity of anorexia nervosa is best understood as an illness where the patient's unconscious needs are such that she (male sufferers are rare) seeks to destroy herself because she cannot see any personality role in the future. It is a treatable disease and the patients make an excellent recovery.

However, the judgment raises the question about all the other illnesses where the mind has a direct effect on the body system or conversely the diseases have a direct effect on the mind, limiting its function.

The classical examples of these are alcoholism (excluded in the 1983 Act as a separate entity) and drug addiction. Here the patient, unable to have a constructive life, descends into an area of gutter care, which is a danger not just for himself but for the whole of society. Time and again further psychoses, triggered off by the drugs or alcohol, lead to the ill patients destroying innocent people. These patients also refuse treatment and/or medication.

The problem arises in many other instances — the diabetic patients who refuse to control their illness, and indeed all those other patients who have an *idée fixe* that they are not ill when to their friends and relatives they clearly are.

These patients in large numbers frequently fall through the simple mental health service and drift into prison where incarceration increases their disabilities.

These cases, although relatively rare, are very dangerous. Would it not be advisable to set up a panel with a judge, two psychiatrists, two lay people and a general practitioner, to whom they could be urgently referred, so that the patient and society may be spared disasters.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARDING PRICE
(Consultant psychiatrist),
Hafod, Cliff Garden,
Sewell Road, Lincoln.
April 1.

Not so pacific

From Mr Erik Lundberg

Sir, I find it sad that recent publicity for Papua New Guinea (reports and leading article, "Not so pacific", March 27) should be as a result of its internal struggles. Despite a formidable range of natural disasters in recent years and a devaluation in 1994, it is only eight years since the World Bank applauded Papua New Guinea for its keen fiscal management and pursuit of financial independence, substantially boosting investor confidence.

Your leading article mentioned some of the logistical barriers to effective communication within Papua New Guinea. These have frequently added to the workload of those involved in development or peacemaking. Many are still suspicious of the involvement of any other than those belonging to their own clan or tribe.

Yet, once convinced of honourable motive, these people are curiously dedicated. They are gifted with welcoming, humble hearts, glad to work for those things which lead to genuine progress. They possess a unique innocence, a reflection of the untainted topography that adorns their most splendid island. It is this very innocence that makes them vulnerable to those with a dual agenda.

In my humble opinion, Sir Julius Chan is one of Papua New Guinea's greatest statesmen, whose many initiatives have helped to steer the nation to a position of substantial economic and political potential. For him a military option to the Bougainville situation would have been a last resort and one that I am sure he would have justified on the basis of nine years of failed negotiation.

I believe that those few at the core of the current rebellion have rejected the person who advocates the only recent hope of a peaceful resolution.

Yours faithfully,
E. LUNDBERG
(Aide to Sir Julius Chan, 1992-93),
35 Tuscany Gardens,
Northgate, Crawley, West Sussex.
March 30.

Updated oath

From Mr T. G. Nash

Sir, Jeremy Laurance reports today that the British Medical Association has produced a modern version of the Hippocratic oath.

Surely it is hypocrisy to attribute the oath to Hippocrates, who must be turning in his grave. If the medical profession wishes to practise to a different set of moral values than those that have stood the test of time, I suggest it would be better to use the name of the present president or secretary of the BMA. I do not feel the latest version will give patients the same confidence in their attendants.

Yours faithfully,
T. G. NASH,
Westlands, 36 Collington Avenue,
Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex.
March 28.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Romania and Nato

From Sir Rowland Whitehead

Sir, You report today the speech by former King Michael of Romania urging Britain to back his country's Nato application. It was, indeed "impassioned and emotional" and, speaking to the King afterwards, even more so.

As it happened I had just stepped off the plane from Bucharest having had an hour with the President of Romania, Emil Constantinescu, meetings with government and industrial opinion and, always a clear reflection of popular sentiment, chats with numerous taxi drivers.

One has to report that there is a depth of feeling, an urgency of purpose, right across the Romanian population in favour of Nato membership to a degree that surprised me.

The arguments speak well for themselves — Britain absolutely must back this application.

Yours etc,
ROWLAND WHITEHEAD,
Sutton House, Chiswick Mall, W4.
March 27.

Public theatre and private pockets

From the Artistic Director of the Norwich Playhouse

Sir, I was outraged by the suggestion in today's third leading article ("The loo's the thing") that Sir Alan Ayckbourn should put yet more of his own money into his Scarborough theatre. As you yourself make clear, Sir Alan has already given generously from his own pocket to provide his fellow citizens with a theatre. But nobody suggests that firemen should pay for us to enjoy a fire service, or that librarians should pay for libraries. Sports facilities are provided by the public purse, and museums seek no financial contribution from historians.

To suggest, as your leader does, that the closure of the Stephen Joseph Theatre would have been "a humiliation for the theatre that was . . . opened with civic pomp only a year ago" has struck a somewhat melancholy chord here in Norwich, where the Playhouse was opened only 15 months ago, with the help of a lottery grant but no money from the local councils or from the regional arts board.

Despite personal assurances to me by an official of the Arts Council that the Playhouse, once opened, would be "an irresistible case for funding", it has struggled to operate as a producing theatre without any revenue grant whatsoever, and is now having to close before it has had the chance to build up an audience. The humiliation, if there is any, should not be laid at the door of the theatre, but belongs to those who do not support it. In Norwich, they do not even keep the public loos open either.

Producing theatres cannot exist without funding support from central and local government. It is surely not unreasonable to expect those who raise taxes and rates to use them generously in the cause of giving their citizens access to the most social of the arts.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY BURKE,
Artistic Director,
Norwich Playhouse,
Gun Wharf, 42-58 St Georges Street,
Norwich, Norfolk.
April 3.

The evolving eye

From Mr Clifford Wale

Sir, Mr Julian Wragg (letter, March 27) admonishes Nigel Hawkes and defends Richard Dawkins's account of the evolution of the eye. In fact Dawkins's explanation depends entirely on a single mutation, which then produced "a single, mutated, heat/light sensitive cell".

Professor Michael J. Behe in his book *Darwin's Black Box* (Simon and Schuster, 1996) shows that such a mutation is a biochemical impossibility. Nigel Hawkes's comments seem remarkably mild.

Yours faithfully,
CLIFFORD WALE,
Wistaria House,
21 High Street,
Blunham, Bedfordshire.
March 27.

Soaking up science

From Dr Brian Hoyle

Sir, The vexing question is not "the apparent causal relationship between forgetting to take an umbrella and the likelihood of precipitation" (letter, April 1), but the apparent propensity of umbrellas to congregate in places where they are of least use.

In theory, I keep an umbrella in my office, in my car and at home. In practice, when it rains, I usually find that they have foregathered in one of the two locations other than where I happen to be.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN HOYLE,
80 Thornbury Wood,
Chandler's Ford, Hampshire.
April 1.

Silencing salesmen

From Professor Bob Spence

Sir, I sympathise with Alan Coren's receipt of intrusive telesales (March 26), and suggest a solution. When recently offered new windows I replied that, regrettably, my house had no windows. There followed a delicious silence while the appropriate response was frantically sought, and not found.

Offers of life insurance could similarly be repulsed by the revelation of one's profession (war correspondent?) or, in extreme cases, by the exaggerated report of one's untimely demise.

Yours,
ROBERT SPENCE,
1 Regents Close, Whyteleafe, Surrey.
April 1.

London Aquarium

From Mr Michael Brown

Sir, Over 20 years of my working life were spent in London's County Hall. It is therefore gratifying to read your report (March 29) that its present owners have reinstated its former use, as home to one of the biggest collections of sharks in the Western world.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BROWN,
Marrick, 5 Hendon Close,
Highbridge, Somerset.
March 30.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 3: The Princess Royal today opened the World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 3: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) this afternoon attended the Young NADFAS Silver Jubilee Day at Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey.

In the evening, Her Royal Highness attended a concert in aid of the English-Speaking Union's Music Fund at Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as trustee, will attend a meeting of the council followed by luncheon at St George's House, Windsor Castle, at 10.30.

The Princess Royal will attend the International Festival of Youth Rugby Finals at Murrayfield at noon.

The Marine Society

The 225th Annual Court of The Marine Society will be held at 11.45 on Tuesday, May 20, 1997, at The Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Lambeth, when Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald, GCB, will give the address.

Furniture Makers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Furniture Makers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr C.E.F. Brett
Senior Warden, Mr C.T.A. Hammond
Junior Warden, Mr J.A. Jacobs.

Reception

English-Speaking Union
The Duchess of Gloucester attended a gala concert held last night at Drapers' Hall in aid of the English-Speaking Union Music Fund and to mark the centenary of the death of Johannes Brahms. Mrs Edward Norman-Butler, Chairman of the ESU's Cultural Affairs Committee, presided. Mr Robert Cohen, cello, and Mr Duncan Prescott, clarinet, ESU music scholars, with Ms Elizabeth Burley, piano, performed.

Baroness Brigstocke, chairman of the union, Mrs Norman-Butler and Mrs Valerie Mitchell, director-general, received the guests at a reception held earlier.

Appointments

Mr David Logan has been appointed Ambassador to Turkey in succession to Sir Kieran Prendergast who has retired from the Diplomatic Service.

Mr Stephen Brown to be Ambassador to Korea in succession to Mr Tom Harris who is moving to a new appointment in the DTI.

Mr Malcolm Hilson to be High Commissioner to Vanuatu from May in succession to Mr Jim Daly who is moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

Birthdays today

Mr Peter Attenborough, former Headmaster, Charterhouse, 59; Sir John Beith, diplomat, 83; Mr Den Dover, MP, 59; Mrs Margaret Dupont, tennis champion, 79; Dr Chris Fay, chairman, Shell UK, 52; Brigadier Anne Field, former director, WRAC, 71; Mr J.M. Fleming, former chairman, Vauxhall Motors, 67; Mr Trevor Griffiths, playwright, 62; Lord Inchyra, 62; Earl Jellicoe, FRS, 79; Mr Gregory Knight, MP, 48; Colonel Sir Bryce Knox, former Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, 81; Mr Richard Mansell-Jones, chairman, J. Bibby and Sons, 57; Professor David Melville, chief executive, Further Education Funding Council, 53; Mr Tim Newell, Governor, Grendon prison, 55; Mr Paul Parker, footballer, 33; Mr Barry Reamsbottom, general secretary, CPSA, 48; Mr Ian Robertson, director, National Army Museum, 54; Mr Dave Sexton, football manager, 67; Dame Catherine Tizard, former Governor-General of New Zealand, 66; Professor George Wedell, former director-general, European Institute for the Media, 70.

University news

Queen's Belfast

The university has won research funding of more than £2.6 million.

The latest grants have come from a wide range of sources, including the Department of Economic Development's Industrial Research and Technology Unit, industry, charities and research councils.

The funding is for studies in the university's Faculties of Agriculture and Food Science, Economics and Social Sciences, Engineering, Law, Medicine and Science. The Institute of European Studies at Queen's and the university's Health and Health Care Research Unit have also benefitted, as has its award-winning environmental research initiative, the Questor Centre.

The largest slice of the funding package — more than £600,000 — has been awarded to the Faculty of Medicine for a range of projects, including research on asthma, leukaemia, arthritis and Alzheimer's Disease.

The other awards included the largest single grant — £219,750 from the European Community — which was awarded to Dr Alan Marshall of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. The funding is for research on cellular access to broadband services and interactive television.

Professor Emeritus

The title of Professor Emeritus has been conferred on Dr David Harkness, Professor of Irish History from 1975 to 1996, and on Dr Gerard Stockman, Professor of Celtic from 1980 to 1996.

DES JENSON

Serena Bradbeer of Sotheby's holding *The Music Lesson* by Gerard Terborch (c 1617-81), which is estimated to fetch between £600,000 and £800,000 at an auction on July 2. The painting, one of four important Dutch Old Masters in the sale, shows a music master supervising a young lady playing the lute. The works are being sold by the executors of the estate of the late Agnes Elizabeth Roach, whose father, Enrico Fattorini, was a Yorkshire businessman who assembled a remarkable collection of Old Masters in the 1930s and 1940s

Frontier city unlocks its secrets

By Norman Hammond
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in Carlisle have been given £350,000 of millennium funds to reopen Rome's gateway to the north. Standing at the western end of Hadrian's Wall, the Roman precursor of Carlisle commanded access into south-western Scotland, and protected Cumbria against barbarian incursions.

The project "will focus on Carlisle's unique frontier role, as well as developing themes from the massive archaeological database accumulated during excavations over the past quarter century", said Mike McCarthy, director of the city's archaeological unit. A prime target will be location of the Roman bridge which carried Hadrian's Wall across the River Eden.

A Roman fort lies adjacent to the medieval Carlisle Castle, and Mr McCarthy believes that the key to the Dark Ages in the region may also lie there. "Is this the location of the halls of Urien Rheged and his successors, Owain, Rhun, and others in the 6th and 7th centuries?" he asks. A major excavation with public viewing will try to find the answers.

Other features of the millennium development will include rebuilding of the city's Irish Gate, and a new gallery linking the Tullie House Museum with the castle. Schoolchildren, students and tourists will see "the cutting edge of discovery and archaeology in action", Mr McCarthy says.

£10m drive to healthier eating

By Robin Young

THE supermarkets are battling to improve the nation's eating habits, they claim. Co-op superstores have launched a £10 million drive to encourage customers to eat healthier foods with a monthly shopping list of recommended products on promotion.

Safeway seeks to help parents to wean children from crisps and chocolate bars by offering individually washed and brightly wrapped fruit, vegetables and dried fruit, suitable for snacks and lunchboxes. "This fruit and vegetable range produced with children in mind is a supermarket first and signifies our commitment to introduce the young to fruit and vegetables at an early stage," says Safeway's nutritionist, Moyra Howie.

Advertised promotions include:

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Asda: Topside/silverside with added basting fat £4.38 kg, beef rump steak £6.49 kg, premium cod fillet in crumb £2.95 for 600g, prepacked salads 70p for 100/200g, Gala apples 45p lb, strawberries 99p for 420g.

Budgens: Leg of pork £1.67 lb, smoked haddock cutlets/fillets £2.87 lb, smoked Dutch bacon back rashers £1.49 for 250g, baking potatoes £1.89 for 5kg, mandarins £1.69 for 1.5kg, Davidstow mature cheddar £2.39 lb.

Co-op (CWS): Skinless chicken fillets £2.99 for 425g, turkey thigh mince £1.49 for 454g, pork chops £3.73 kg, cod fillets £4.99 kg, French red apples 89p for six, spring greens 49p for 500g, pure orange juice 49p ltr.

Dewhurst: Frozen turkeys 69p lb, chickens £3.99 for 1.6/1.7 kg.

Harrods: Ostrich biltong £7.99 for 100g, lamb and beef droewors £2.29 for 100g, jambon grillé £1.59 for 100g, artichoke tortelloni £1.99 for 100g, spinach and tomato soufflé £1.79 each.

Iceland: Minced beef £2.37 for 1.36kg, quarter pounders £1.49 for eight, boneless chicken breasts £3.99 for 900g, salmon fish cakes 99p for eight, sweet and sour chicken 99p for 340g, raspberries £1.99 for 454g.

Kwik Save: Birds Eye 15 crispy chicken dippers £1.19 for 275g, Allinsons wholemeal loaf 47p for 400g, Cadbury's Dairy Milk 73p for 200g, Flora Light 77p for 500g, Walls Viennetta £1.29 for 600 ml.

Marks & Spencer: Chicken breast fillets £7.99 for ten, salmon en croute £4.49, New Zealand lamb leg knuckle £5.29 kg, Orkney smoked salmon £3.99 for six slices, mini Melton Mowbrays £1.29 for six, baby cherry tomatoes £1.59 for 300g, bread and butter pudding £1.49, strawberries £1.99 for 500g.

Morrisons: Pork chops from £1.39 lb, topside/silverside £1.89 lb, braising steak £3.72 kg, boneless shoulder pork 99p lb, whole mackerel 85p lb, Scottish salmon £1.59 lb, hothouse lettuce 19p each, strawberries 99p lb, eating and juicing oranges 99p for 14.

Safeway: Rump steak £7.49 kg, chicken breast fillets £6.66 for 1.19kg, Scottish salmon steaks £3.99 for four (570g), chicken and broccoli pasta bake 99p for 300g, wholemeal bread 76p for two 880g loaves, oranges £1.19 for 12, Iceberg lettuce 49p each, Royal Gala apples £1.79 for two packs.

Sainsbury's: Turkey steaks £2.99 for four (500g), topside £5.79 kg, breaded haddock £2.69 for 480g, lean ham round £1.49 for 454g, wild mushroom soup 79p for 500ml, twinpack garlic bread 99p for 370g, croissants 99p for eight, Iceberg lettuce 49p each, oranges £1.90 for 12, Gold Choice coffee £2.94 for 200g.

Somerfield: Pork loin chops £5.89 kg, beef salsa surprise £1.69 for 275g, roast whole chickens £3.37 kg, smoked cod fillet £3.57 kg, softbake white baguettes 79p for six, onions 79p for 2kg, red potatoes £1.49 for 5kg, Gala apples 44p lb, mandora 44p lb.

Tesco: Boneless shoulder of pork £2.46 kg, pork chops £3.74 kg, beef forerib £4.49 kg, lamb half leg £5.99 kg, whole salmon £1.57 lb, haddock fillet £1.95 lb, raw peeled tiger prawns £1.09 ¼lb, Iceberg lettuce 35p each, Cape Williams pears 28p lb, strawberries 99p for 454g, Golden Delicious 38p lb.

Waitrose: Free range chickens £2.99 up to 2.3kg, British diced braising beef £2.59 for 500g, spiced pork sausages £1.35 for eight, French country ham £1.29 for 100g, baby new potatoes 79p lb, aubergines 75p lb, Bon Rouge pears 59p lb, rhubarb £1.09 for 450g, Somerset ripe Brie £5.29 for 225g, chocolate soft set ice-cream £1.49 for 2ltr.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Grinling Gibbons, wood carver, Rotterdam, 1648; Sir William Siemens, inventor, Lenthe, Germany, 1823; Rémy de Gourmont, writer, Bazoches-en-Houlmes, France, 1858.

DEATHS: Robert III, King of Scotland 1390-1406, Dundonald Castle, Rothesay, 1406; John Napier, inventor of logarithms, Merchiston Castle, Edinburgh, 1617; Maurice of Nassau, Prince of Orange, military leader, The Hague, 1625; Oliver Goldsmith, playwright, novelist and poet, London, 1774; Karl Benz, pioneer of the motorcar, Paris, 1929; André Michelin, motor tyre manufacturer, Paris, 1941; Gloria Swanson, actress, New York, 1983.

Francis Drake was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I on board *The Golden Hind* on his return from circumnavigating the world, 1581.

Martin Luther King, Nobel Peace laureate 1964, was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, 1968.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.I.M. Ashfield
and Flight Lieutenant J.M. Salter
The engagement is announced between Robert, only son of Mr and Mrs Tim Ashfield, of Broughton, Hampshire, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr Frank Salter and Mrs Chris Salter, of south London.

Mr D.J. Attenburrow
and Miss J.L. Burton
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Donald Attenburrow, of Langford, Devon, and Judie, younger daughter of the late Mr John Burton and of Mrs John Burton, of Sutton Coldfield.

Mr P.J. Boardman
and Miss S.C. King-Smith
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Boardman, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Terence King-Smith, of Snowshill, Gloucestershire.

Mr E.G. Colby
and Miss H.J. Crease
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Commander and Mrs R. Colby, of Bickington, Devon, and Hermione, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D.P. Crease, of Scampston, North Yorkshire.

Mr H.R. Darell-Brown
and Miss L. Webster
The engagement is announced between Henry, son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Anthony Darell-Brown, of Witnesham, Suffolk, and Lindsey, daughter of Mr David Webster, of Mitcheldean, and Mrs Patricia Ashton, of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

Mr J. Davies-Jones
and Miss A.D. King
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Dr and Mrs Aelwyn Davies-Jones, of Sheffield, and Annette, daughter of Mr Brian King, of North Walsham, Norfolk, and Mrs Gerlinde King, of Surlingham, Norfolk.

Mr M.J. Dick
and Miss S.D. Hill
The engagement is announced between Martin John, son of Mr and Mrs Iain Dick, of Milngavie, Glasgow, and Sarah Diana, daughter of Mr William Hill and the late Mrs Diana Hill, of the Old Vicarage, Stoney Middleton, Derbyshire.

Captain T.H. Duff
and Miss N.J. de Vink
The engagement is announced between Captain Tom Duff, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Duff, of Regent Terrace, Edinburgh, and Natalie, daughter of Mr Peter de Vink, of Huntly Cot, Midlothian, and Mrs Jean de Vink, of Moray Place, Edinburgh.

Mr P.H. Eastwood
and Miss S.L. Harrison
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Hugo Eastwood, of Belgravia, London, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Harrison, of Chelsea, London.

Mr R.J. Flury
and Miss J.C. Down
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Dr and Mrs Roy Flury, of Wheatley, Oxfordshire, and Joanna, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Down, of Liss, Hampshire.

Mr R.F. Heatley
and Miss M.G. O'Grady
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Professor and Mrs Fred Heatley, of Pyrford, Surrey, and Maureen, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick O'Grady, of Sonoma, California.

Mr N.R. Hoggan
and Miss J.E. Maxwell
The engagement is announced between Neil, son of the late Mr Ian Hoggan and of Mrs Ian Hoggan, of Beckley, Sussex, and Jane, younger daughter of the late Dr and Mrs Cecil Maxwell, of Liverpool.

Mr J.O. Moorhouse, MEP,
and Miss C.H. Peterson
The engagement is announced between James Moorhouse, of London, and Catherine Hamilton Peterson, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.

Mr A. Osborn
and Miss P. Sanders
The engagement is announced between Adam, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robin Osborn, of Hong Kong, and Philippa, elder daughter of Mr Bob Sanders, of Hong Kong, and Mrs Heather O'Keefe, of Brisbane, Australia.

Dr T.M. Palfreman
and Miss E.J. Ingram
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Palfreman, of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Ingram, of Tavistock, Devon.

Mr S.C. Price
and Miss K.E. Verdon-Roe
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Major and Mrs Michael Price, of Barton Mills, Suffolk, and Katrina, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Royce Verdon-Roe, of Warsash, Hampshire.

Mr S.R.F. Saunders
and Miss V.J. Shaw
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Saunders, of Great Chishill, Cambridgeshire, and Victoria, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Shaw, of Willingale, Essex.

Mr A.K.T. Shannon
and Miss I.A. Longe
The engagement is announced between Keith, son of Mrs Ian Shannon and the late Mr Ian Shannon, of Geldeston, Norfolk, and Alex, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Desmond Longe, of Bungay, Suffolk.

Mr D.A. Shannon
and Miss N. Metcalfe-Gibson
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.S. Shannon, of Tealby, Lincolnshire, and Nicola, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Metcalfe-Gibson, of Ullock, Cumbria.

Mr M. Sirravo
and Miss A.S. Hyde-Smith
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of the late Mr and Mrs Michael Francis Sirravo, of Boston, Massachusetts, and Amanda Susan, daughter of Major Ian Hyde-Smith, of Chiswick, and Mrs John Ford, of Randwick, Gloucestershire.

Mr C.C.A. Thomas
and Miss S.E. Beales
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr Arnold Thomas, of Slindon, West Sussex, and Mrs Susan George, of West Stoke, West Sussex, and Serena, daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Beales, of Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr T.J. Young
and Miss J.E. Couper
The engagement is announced between Tobias James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ross Young, of Stoke St Gregory, Somerset, and Judith Elinor, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Couper, of Longniddry, East Lothian.

Latest wills

Lord Margadale, Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire 1969-81, left estate valued at £4,443,625 net. He left his estate mostly to relatives.

Connie Ribeiro **De Melo**, of Grasmere, Cumbria, left estate valued at £2,113,895 net.

Graham **Gardiner**, of Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire, left estate valued at £994,079 net.
He left £20,000 to the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

Laurence Marshall **Edmonds**, retired accountant, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,386,496 net.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The Lord has averted your punishment, he has swept away your foes. Israel, the Lord is among you as king; never again need you fear disaster. Zephaniah 3 : 15

BIRTHS

BIDDELL - See Willott.

BUCHANAN - On March 31st 1997, to CB (née Boorman) and Angus, a daughter, Hannah.

FREUD - On April 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Caroline and Matthew, a son, Jonah Henry, a brother for George.

FUKAMI - On March 27th at The Portland Hospital, to Yasuko and Kazuhiro, a pretty daughter, Hanako.

IRWIN - On March 24th 1997, to Elizabeth (née Bunster) and Gabriel at UCH, a son, Benjamin, a brother for William, Edward and Louise.

MARSHALL - On Friday March 21st 1997, to Magda (née Wieczorek) and Huw, twin brothers for Janina, Daniel Huw and Tomas Robert.

MARTIN - On 2nd April 1997 at East Surrey Hospital, to Denys and Barbara (née Dunn), a daughter, Amelia Eileen.

MOORE-GILLON - On 2nd April in Paris, to Helen (née Parnfield) and Mark, a daughter, Katherine Lucy, a sister for Charlie.

OLSEN-SAVELIEV - On 1st April, to Jane and Andrei, a son, Timur Andreevich, a brother for Katya.

RASHLEIGH - On 1st April 1997, to Emma (née McGougan) and Richard, a son David William Augustine.

SCOTT - On March 24th 1997, to Kay (née Bartrop) and Andrew, a son, Thomas Henry Douglas.

SWINTON - On March 29th, to Lindsey (née Gryspeerdt) and Will, a daughter, a sister for Sam.

TEHRANI - On March 27th at The Portland Hospital, to Joanna (née Glynn) and Christopher, a beautiful son, Oscar Henry.

WALKER-MUNRO - On March 9th, to Lorraine (née Orchard) and Geordie, twins, Rory James Christian and Amelia Charlotte Rose at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee.

WHITEHOUSE - On 3rd April in Worcester, to Alex and Sheena, a son, Thomas Alexander.

BIRTHS

WILLIAMS - On March 20th 1997, to June (née Woodage) and Tim, a daughter, Fleur, a sister for Imogen.

WILLOTT - On March 9th, to Jane (née Biddell) and Roger, a daughter, Serena Isobel, a sister for Miranda.

WOODINGTON - On 2nd April 1997, to Stuart and Kathryn, a daughter, Olivia Anne.

DEATHS

BEVAN JONES - Dr. Harri (Bev) peacefully at home on Easter Sunday 30th Mrech 1997 after a long illness courageously fought, beloved husband of Muriel and much loved father of Bruce, Penny, Hilary and Tessa, grandfather of nine and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at Southend-on-Sea Crematorium, Tuesday 8th April at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Parkinson's Disease Society, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0RA.

BRANDER - George Malcolm died peacefully on 3rd April, father of Frances, Anne, Isobel and John. Cremation at Walton Lea Crematorium, Warrington, 10.30 am Friday 11th April. Family flowers. Donations to Parkinson's Disease Society.

CARR - Norman Joseph MBE OGDS "Kakuli" died peacefully in Johannesburg in the early hours of 1st April 1997 after a brave fight and dedicated nursing. Sadly missed by his devoted loving family and friends. Cremation will be private. No flowers please. Donations in memory to Kapani School Fund, PO Box 100, Mfuwe, Zambia.

CHARLESWORTH - Frederic Vivian on 2nd April 1997 peacefully at home aged 86. Funeral at Dunsfold 11 am 8th April 1997.

COLVILL - Hannah Kathleen peacefully on April 1st at Osborne House aged 94. Widow of Lt. Col. D.C. Colvill, dear mother of Michael, grandmother to Tracey. Funeral Service at St Mildred's Church, Whippingham, East Cowes, I.o.W. on Wednesday April 9th at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations appreciated to Friends of Osborne House.

DEATHS

CHILDS - Peter Michael aged 62 years suddenly in Kingston Hospital after many months of disability bravely borne. A Younger Brother of Trinity House, management consultant and London Society referee and very dearly loved husband, father, stepfather, grandfather and friend. Funeral at Kingston Crematorium on Tuesday 8th April at 1 pm. Flowers or donations (to British Stroke Association) to Fred Paine, 265 Ewell Road, Surbiton, KT6 7AA.

DAVIES - Loveday Mary Margaret, peacefully in hospital on Easter Day. Much loved wife of Tony, mother of Richard, Stella, William and Sophie, grandmother of Megan and dear friend of many. Funeral at St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham at 3.30 pm on Thursday, 10th April. Family flowers only but donations, if wished, to Cancer Research Campaign c/o Hawkins, tel: (01372) 372436.

DURHAM - Jane (née Paterson) in her 73rd year, wife of Phil and mother of Richard, Robin and William, as the result of an accident on 1st April 1997. Funeral at her home, Scotsburn House, Kildary, at 1 pm on Saturday 5th April. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust.

FLEMMING - On 29th March, aged 91, in the loving care of the staff at Sutton Manor, Elizabeth (née Haden). Widow of Cecil, mother of Diana, Jonathan and William and a much loved grandmother. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at Holy Trinity Church, Wonston, nr. Winchester on Tuesday 8th April at 3 pm.

GEE - Caroline, 2nd April in Sydney, Australia. Beloved mother of Zac and Hugh, sister of Philippa and Murray, Charlotte, Gogo and John. Dearly loved and sadly missed by her many friends and her family.

GETLEY - Bertha on March 31st 1997. Beloved widow of Baldy, much loved mother of Tom, John, Robert, Andrew and Jane and loving grandmother and great-grandmother. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Long Crendon Parish Church at 2.30 pm on Thursday 10th April. No flowers please, but donations if desired to R.B.L. Women's Branch Long Crendon c/o Mrs H. Samuel, Cop Hill, Chearsley Road, Long Crendon, Aylesbury, Bucks.

GORDON - David William Somerville FRCS, FRCOG. Died April 1st 1997, at home, overlooking the daffodils, after a long illness borne with such courage and dignity. Darling husband of Susi, a wonderful father to Fiona, Belinda and Susanna and superb stepfather to Duncan and Jonathon and grandfather of Anna and Sophie. Funeral Service on Wednesday April 9th at the Church of The Good Shepherd, Tadworth, Surrey at 3 pm followed by private burial at Powerstock, Dorset on April 11th. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Princess Alice Hospice, Esher c/o Stoneman Funeral Service, Doran Court, Redhill, RH1 6AZ. Tel: (01737) 763456.

HORNE - Walter T. - aged 86 suddenly at home in Ealing on Friday 28th March late of Register House and dearly loved father of Hazel. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium Richmond on Tuesday 8th April at 3 pm. All enquiries to: Christopher Wickenden Funeral Services, 71, Greenford Avenue, London W7 1LJ. Tel No. 0181 579 7176.

JONES - David Brian 30th March 1997 aged 54. A tragic accident in Chad. A loving husband to Nicole, cherished father to Bernard and Dominic and a dear son to Marjory. Thank you for the love, joy and energy you shared with all your family and friends. No flowers. Donations if desired made payable to Chadian Childrens Fund c/o CWS Funeral Services, 80 Ampthill Road, Bedford, MK42 9HP. Cremation Wednesday 9th April 10 am Bedford Crematorium.

KNIGHT - Geoffrey Egerton CBE on March 31st, peacefully in hospital aged 76. Beloved husband of Dollar (née Bugle). Father of Venetia and Amanda and proud grandfather of James, Zinnia, Davina, Tara, Felix and Katie. Private family cremation. Thanksgiving Service at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, Chelsea on Wednesday, 9th April at 4pm. No flowers. Donations to Royal Marines Welfare Fund, The Corps Secretary, Royal Marines, HMS Excellent, Portsmouth PO2 8ER.

MATTHEWS - On Easter Saturday in hospital after a brief illness Winifred Elizabeth, beloved wife of the late Ronald Charles Matthews of Caerleon. Enquiries to Tovey Bros., 9/11 Cardiff Road, Newport, tel: (01633) 266848.

MORTON - On April 2nd, peacefully in his garden at Chagford, Devon, Peter John, Royal Navy (Retd.). Beloved husband, Father and Grandy.

NEAME - Marjorie Harriet Mary born 29th November 1904 in Mitcham, passed away peacefully in her sleep on 26th March 1997 in Vancouver, Canada, after an eventful and courageous life. She will be much missed by her daughter Julia, grandsons Ian and Andrew and her nephew Graham.

RICHARDSON - On March 29th after a brief illness at the University College Hospital whilst on holiday from Malta, Professor Keith Clifford aged 91 years. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium (West Chapel) on Thursday April 10th at 3pm. No flowers please but donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o Leverton & Sons Ltd, 212 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BD.

ROBINSON - Richard (Dick), on 27th March at Maldon, Essex, formerly of Hyde Hall Garden aged 80. The funeral has taken place.

STOLBERGER - Schull, West Cork. Thomas Fredrick BSc. FICE. On April 1st 1997 suddenly after a heart attack aged 69. Funeral Service on Saturday at 11 am in St Mary's Church, Schull.

SCOTT - Barney, on Saturday 29th March in Chase Farm Hospital, as brave as ever after a long illness. Dearly loved by all but especially by Gwen, Wendy and family. Private Cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at Christ Church, Cockfosters on Tuesday 15th April at 2.15pm. Family flowers. Donations to Abbeyfield Southgate Society and Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

TAFFS - Leslie Frank PHD FRCVS on Easter Saturday 29th March 1997 peacefully at home after a courageous fight against illness. Dearly loved husband of Carol and father of Andrew and Joanna. Private cremation on Friday 11th April followed by Service of Thanksgiving at St Helens Church, Wheathampstead, Herts. at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Relief McMillan Fund c/o L.C. Weston Funeral Director, Unit 25, 17 Leyton Road, Harpenden, Herts. Tel Phone No. 01582 712865.

THOMSON - F.A. (Tomada also Horse) formerly of Hong Kong and Malaya, died on 31st March at Bacolod, Philippine Islands, in the care of his Phillipine Servants.

VECCHIETTI - Passed away suddenly on March 29th 1997 at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, Antonino, aged 78 years. Beloved papa of Peter, Annalisa and Cristina. He will be sadly missed by all of his friends in the Italian Community. Funeral Service in the St Johns Chapel, Oxford Crematorium on Friday April 11th, at 10 am. Family flowers only please, donations to the Oxford Italian Social Club.

VICK - Richard William died peacefully on April 1st. Loved and supported by his family, respected judge and courageous M.T.B. Commander. Service at Cheltenham Crematorium on Monday April 7th at 11 am. Flowers or donations for RNLI, Gosport, may be sent to Fred Stevens Funeral Director, Newmarket Road, Nailsworth, Glos.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BELMONT - Michael and Virginia. A Memorial Service for Michael and Virginia Belmont will be held at 12 noon on 23rd April at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, Wilton Place, SW1.

ROUND - The Memorial service for Lt. Col. James Gray Round O.B.E. J.P. D.L. will be held at All Saints, Feering, Kelvedon, Essex, on April 15th at 3 pm. Donations if desired to the Essex Association of Boys Club, Harway House, Rectory Lane, Chelmsford.

SEGAL - The Memorial Stone to Harry will be dedicated at the Western Cemetery, Cheshunt, on Sunday April 13th at 10 am.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

WALLS - Muriel Mackie, MBE. A service of Thanksgiving for the life of Muriel Walls is to be held at Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Guildford, on Tuesday, 29th April, at 12 noon. All welcome.

BIRTHDAYS

K N ROUND-DIPPLE Happy 60th Birthday 1997, here's to 70!

SERVICES

PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01362 718909.

WANTED

MINK COATS, fox coats purchased Best price paid. All inquires/details Box No 1794.

PRE 1940's clothes, linen, lace, fans, patchwork quilts, embroideries, samplers, oriental articles, shawls, textiles, costume jewellery etc 0171 229 9618.

ROLEX & CARTIER wanted. High cash prices paid. 0171 495 8992 or visit 31 Park Lane W1.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL AVAIL Phantom, Saigon etc All pop Glastonbury. Cheapest in London. 0171 240 2222

ALL AVAIL: Phantom, all theatre, M.Jackson, T.Braxton, Wimbledon all sport 0171 480 6183

ALL TICKETS 5 Nations, Phil Collins, C. Dione, all major pop, sport & theatre0171 925 0085

ANY TICKET obtained. Theatre, Concerts & any sporting events. 0171 488 4414 (City).

TICKETS BOUGHT & SOLD - All sporting, Theatre & Concerts. Wimbledon Deb's, Cricket, Michael Jackson available. Glyndebourne wanted. Top £££ paid. Tel 0171 839 8323

WIMBLEDON, Grand Prix, Ascot, Ryder Cup, Proms, Theatre/concerts & all sporting events. Tel 0171 930 3898 or fax 0171 930 3894

ALL TICKETS
WIMBLEDON 1997
BRITISH GRAND PRIX
ROYAL ASCOT
FRENCH OPEN TENNIS
RYDER CUP
ENGLAND V AUSTRALIA
PILKINGTON CUP FINAL
HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA
MICHAEL JACKSON
U2,SUPERTRAMP
GLASTONBURY
All Sports, Pop & West End theatre.
0171 323 4480
Gt Portland Ents

ALL TICKETS
Wimbledon Tennis
Grand Prix, Cricket,
Ryder Cup, R. Ascot.
U2, Michael Jackson,
Phil Collins.
Phantom, Saigon, etc.
C/C Acc. Free delivery
0171 247 4123

FOR SALE

Weddings & Ascot 1997
Ex-hire suits from £35.00 can be posted to home/office add £4.95 for p&p.
Telephone 01926-400647 for details or call into shop.
Heaphys Menswear,
4 Westgate House,
Warwick

FOR SALE

A A NEWSPAPER dated very day you were born £18+p&p. Same day despatch. 0171 726 2626.

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper. Original. Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 906609

THE TIMES - 1791-1996 other titles available. Ready for presentation - also "Sundays". Remember When. 0181-688 6323 or Call Free 0500 520000

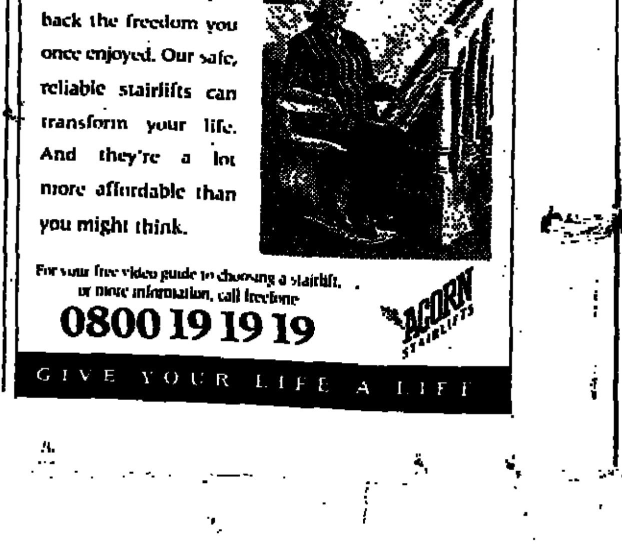
OVERSEAS TRAVEL

PORTUGAL & Canaries. All areas. Villas/apts., hotels, pousadas, golf hols, flights. Longmere Int'l. 0181 664 2424. Retail agents. ABTA E143X

WINTER SPORTS

LATE OFFERS. Catd chalets in France, Austria, Switz & Canada Ski Total 0181 948 6922 Abta

FOR SALE



ACORN MEANS FREEDOM

Let Acorn give you back the freedom you once enjoyed. Our safe, reliable stairlifts can transform your life. And they're a lot more affordable than you might think.

For your free video guide to choosing a stairlift, or more information, call freefone

0800 19 19 19

GIVE YOUR LIFE A LIFT

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PIANOS for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Sales, hire, restoration, tuning and moving. Branches across London. Service throughout the UK. Markson Pianos 0171 935 8682 (NW1) 0181 854 4517 (SE18).

FLATSHARE

FLATMATES London's foremost (Est 1970) Professional flat share service. 0171-589 5491

LANCASTER GATE/Paddington. Single room on smart 2 bed (n/s) flat. Nr Tube/Bus. £80pw excl. 0171 724 9743.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

TOP CALIBRE housekeeper London SW1 - Top calibre, exp. housekeeper/cook needed for American executive. Own basement flat. Suit single lady. 15K per annum. Contact Hutchison's 0171 581 0010 emp agy.

هكذا من الاعلى

OBITUARIES

U. ALEXIS JOHNSON

U. Alexis Johnson, United States diplomat, died on *March 24* aged 88. He was born on October 17, 1908.

A mainstay of American diplomacy, U. Alexis Johnson worked through some of the most chilling days of the Cold War. His 40-year career in the Foreign Service brought him a close shave with death in Saigon, ambassadorships to Czechoslovakia, Thailand and Japan, and seats at some of this century's more important international negotiating tables.

A bureaucrat by instinct and temperament, he tended to regard himself as a mechanic of American foreign policy rather than its moulder, the reliable boiler-room engineer who kept the diplomatic ship ploughing through the waves, while his political superiors on the bridge charted the course.

Nevertheless, successive Presidents, particularly John Kennedy and Richard Nixon, relied upon the softly-spoken Johnson for assignments of considerable complexity. Yet, in the world beyond Foggy Bottom and the White House, only the most earnest students of American foreign policy were familiar with his name — and even they had to search hard among the footnotes to find a mention of his achievements.

As with most career diplomats, that was the way he preferred it to be. The press, which he described in mainly derogatory terms, he regarded as a pest and a nuisance. In the words of a colleague who knew him in Washington during Kennedy's presidency, he was "a dedicated, hard-working public servant, stubborn, cautious, taciturn, a figure frequently seated behind the potted palm. Only grudgingly would he divulge even the time of day to an associate who lacked the requisite security classification".

Johnson's first name was Ural, after the mountain range, but he took to using simply the initial when he entered the US Foreign Service in 1935. A teacher suggested that it would "ring more impressively" along the corridors of the State Department at Foggy Bottom.

Among his colleagues he was an anomaly. The Midwestern grandson of Swedish immigrants, he grew up in rural Kansas and in California, where the family later moved, and was educated locally and at Occidental College in Los Angeles where he read economics.

American diplomats, in those elitist and isolationist days, tended to come from established East Coast families and Ivy League colleges, and at first Johnson's prospects looked bleak. He passed the Foreign Service entrance examination in 1932, but at a time of government cuts was offered no immediate job.

In 1935, to his relief, he was eventually posted to the US Embassy in Tokyo, and then served by turns in Korea, China, Korea once more and then Manchuria, where he was stranded on the day that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The following day he was placed under house arrest, then interned by the Japanese and not repatriated for eight months.

After the war, because of his fluent Japanese, he was sent back to the Far East as one of General MacArthur's staff. In 1951 he was a member of the US delegation to the Japanese peace treaty conference in San Francisco. For three frustrating years he led talks with the Chinese over disengaging US troops in Korea, and was rewarded by President Eisenhower in 1953 with his first ambassadorship to Prague.

His next Embassy, from 1958 to 1961, was Bangkok, a posting which gave him useful contacts among Thai mercenaries. These were the soldiers who, later in the 1960s, he was to deploy in the fighting in Laos, and which he so imaginatively described as "local forces" in order that they could be paid in American money in accordance with congressional requirements. (Congressional meddling in foreign affairs was one of his lifelong bugbears.)

Johnson returned to Washington in 1961 at a time when President Kennedy was filling his State Department with people to whom he owed campaign debts. Standing apart from such figures, Johnson as Deputy Under-Secretary of State ranked as the highest-ranking Foreign Service officer. Among other duties, he served as the department's go-between with the top levels of the CIA and the Pentagon, a function which made him party to a number of cloak-and-dagger operations, although he maintained to the end of his life that he knew nothing of such bizarre proposals as the plan to kill Castro with an exploding cigar.

But he always remained an unapologetic hawk on Vietnam. As early as 1961 he was urging "defeat of the Vietcong" as the ultimate objective of US policy in the area, and in 1964, as the war escalated, he was made assistant ambassador in Saigon as an indication of the more aggressive approach whichAmerica was planning to take. It was his memorandum on the subject which kickstarted "Rolling Thunder", the ultimately futile bombing campaign against the North. Johnson was injured by flying glass from a car bomb during his posting in Saigon, but fortunately he survived the attack.

Three years followed in the late 1960s as Ambassador to Japan, before Johnson was recalled by President Nixon to Washington, in 1969, as his Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs — making him the third senior official in the State Department. He got on fine with William Rogers, Nixon's first Secretary of State, but his relationship with the White House National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger, who had little time for professional diplomats, started off by being distinctly bumpy. It later, however, improved — with Kissinger describing Johnson in his memoirs as "skilled, disciplined, prudent and loyal".

His last posting, from 1973 to 1977, was to Geneva, where he was made chief American negotiator of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (Salt). Forty years in diplomacy gave him a realistic understanding of what he could expect from his Soviet opposite numbers. As he said in 1977: "To my mind, Salt is a continuing process. The dialogue we have had over thousands of hours, from the President down to sub-committees of the Geneva delegations — these are, in part, an educative process. I have a feeling that this dialogue must continue in some form, or some place along the line we are going to blow each other up, commit suicide."

In his retirement Johnson acted as a consultant to the State Department, and in 1984 published his own memoirs, *The Right Hand Of Power*. He was married and widowed twice, and is survived by two sons and two daughters of his first marriage.

U. Alexis Johnson arriving as US Ambassador to Prague

DR ANTHONY HOPKINS

Dr Anthony Hopkins, director of the research unit of the Royal College of Physicians, died after a collapse on March 6 aged 59. He was born on October 15, 1937.

ALTHOUGH an eminent clinical neurologist, Anthony Hopkins went on to enjoy a second distinguished career as director of the research unit of the Royal College of Physicians. Here he made a strong impact on improving the quality of healthcare.

His approach was groundbreaking. He involved colleagues around the country and worked with their professional associations. He skilfully facilitated joint working between the different disciplines, bringing together doctors, nurses, therapists, managers and others in an attempt to overcome previous barriers to inter-professional collaboration. This was seen particularly in work on the healthcare of older people and patients who had suffered strokes. He pioneered the involvement of patients in defining and developing high-quality healthcare.

Born in Poole, Dorset, Anthony Philip Hopkins was educated at Sherborne. It was while he was there that his mother decided that he would be suited to medicine. He appears to have agreed and went on to study at Guy's Hospital Medical School. He proved an outstanding student, both academically and sartorially, and he qualified as a doctor in 1961.

He specialised in neurology at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen's Square (1964-72). There was a year at the Mayo Foundation and, more significantly, a year at the Saltpetrière Hospital in Paris as a Medical Research Council exchange scholar. There, on St Valentine's Day, he met his future wife, who was then studying at the Sorbonne. They were married in 1965.

At an early age, he was appointed in 1972 a consultant neurologist at St Bartholomew's Hospital. He was elected to the fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians in 1976 and rose to become the physician in charge of the Department of Neurological Sciences from 1976 to 1988.

Two themes emerged early in his research which were later to put him far ahead of his time: he valued the views of patients on their illnesses and their healthcare; and, he saw the need for a broader approach to improving medical care. His foremost characteristics were his compassion, thoughtfulness and understanding. His flair for gardening, which had been apparent from early childhood, was perhaps reflected in his skill for bringing on people. He could spot talent and was generous in his support, particularly when he detected a glint of enthusiasm and commitment. This stood him in good stead in his second career.

Unexpectedly, this began when he succeeded Sir Cyril Clarke as director of the research unit of the Royal College of Physicians in 1988. Here he made his most lasting contribution. Although academic colleagues might have looked askance at the unit which had neither laboratories, staff, an academic career structure, nor patients under its care, Hopkins believed that he could attack the perennial problem that much medical research is not put into practice.

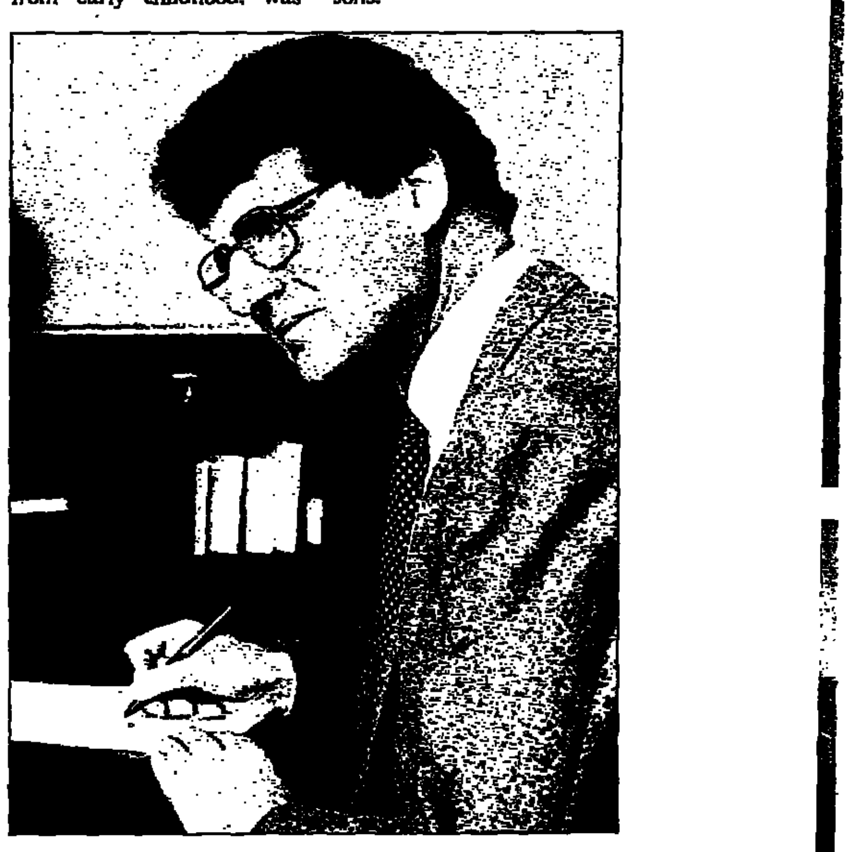
An enduring memory for many people will be a working lunch in his office overlooking Regent's Park or at his club — the Garrick. In such gatherings, he would tactfully, but incisively, cut through any waffle to get to the heart of the matter. He had a particular ability to link what clinical colleagues were saying to him about the health service with policy matters at a national level. This intellectual rigour was widely valued at the many key national committees of which he was a member.

Hopkins wrote prolifically. Among many influential texts are the reports and books of his unit on the quality of healthcare. He was particularly proud of his textbook, *Clinical neurology: a modern approach* (1993). He was keen on information technology but not for his writing — a computer was never seen on his leather-topped desk. Like many doctors, his handwriting was characteristic and his annotations of a manuscript would often wind right around the page — sometimes twice.

There was an important international dimension to Hopkins's work, also. He worked jointly with European and American professional organisations. He was in demand as an international speaker at conferences and had recently returned from Mauritius where he had been acting as a special adviser to the World Health Organisation.

However, he understood the balance between work and leisure. He loved the sea and bought a 35ft yacht, *Fluidity*. He also liked skiing, and practically every year his tall dark distinctive figure would be seen swooping down the slopes, but always making courteous way for any who crossed his path.

He leaves his widow, Elizabeth Ann Wood, and three sons.



AGNES DUNCAN

Agnes Duncan, MBE, choral conductor, died on March 23 aged 97. She was born on November 10, 1899.

AGNES DUNCAN was a choral conductor of high reputation who introduced generations of young people to music. Though her life and work were concentrated in the west of Scotland, she achieved wider fame through radio and television. She was also a leader of the music festivals movement which established itself throughout Britain.

She was born in Alexandria in the Vale of Leven, Dunbartonshire, a cradle of the Industrial Revolution, which also possessed a celebrated children's choir. She joined it at the age of ten by claiming to be 12 — the official entry age. Since the choirmaster knew this to be the age of her older sister, he asked if they were therefore twins. No, she replied; her sister was a few weeks older. So evident were her musical gifts that he smiled and let it pass.

By the age of 20, Agnes was a soloist with the Glasgow Orpheus Choir, founded by her mentor Sir Hugh Roberton in 1910. Under Roberton's colourful and inspired leadership it built up a worldwide reputation. Because of his controversial views, he was known as the George Bernard Shaw of Scotland and was briefly banned by the BBC in 1942 because of his pacifism. Much later James Hunter, former head of television at BBC Scotland, was able to confirm the outstanding quality of the Orpheus Choir when he came upon a film, now in the national archive, of it performing in 1928.

The choir was a showcase for Duncan's rich contralto and impeccable musicianship. She was much in demand as a professional soloist. She was, however, to find her vocation as a choral conductor. After an apprenticeship leading local choirs in Glasgow, she decided in 1943 to form the Scottish Junior Singers. They started with 60 girls and music bought on credit.

Within a few years they were 300-strong and the leading junior choir in Britain, sweeping the board at the Llangollen Eisteddfod, receiving a standing ovation at the Festival Hall in London, and becoming the first junior choir to appear at the Edinburgh Festival. Sell-out concerts were given in the old St Andrew's Hall in Glasgow, much prized for its acoustics, but destroyed by fire in 1962.

The singers made many broadcasts on both radio and television, including a memorable appearance with Burl Ives on *In Town Tonight*. They achieved a unique double when, in 1959 and 1961, they won both the youth and children's classes in the international radio singing competition, *Let The People Sing*.

Kathleen Ferrier and Isobel Baillie were among the artists who praised the choir's purity of sound, clarity of diction and high standards of musicianship. Sir Hugh Roberton himself paid generous tribute to Agnes Duncan's skill as a conductor: "She knew the choral game upside down and never missed a move."

In 1967 Duncan was appointed MBE in recognition of her services to music. Although she retired from conducting, she continued to adjudicate at festivals and competitions. She served as honorary president of the annual Glasgow Music Festival and in 1992, was invited to St James's Palace to make a presentation to the Queen on behalf of the British Music Festivals Association. It was a fitting choice: she was the association's oldest member and by now had been a member of the festival movement for 80 years.

She said that a choral conductor required, apart from unerring musicianship, a strong personality, a sense of humour, an ability to impose discipline without regimentation and a love of people. Her pre-concert pep talks were inspirational and her advice was pithy: "Never sing louder than lovely," she would say.

She was predeceased by her husband Mathew Nisbet and is survived by her daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FARESAVERS

MALAGA	fr £59	GREECE	fr £69
ALICANTE	£59	TURKEY	£109
FARO	£59	ISRAEL	£109
[illegible]	£69	MALTA	£79
LAS PALMAS	£69	CYPRUS	£119
LANZAROTE	£69	ITALY	£89
BALEARICS	£59	CARIBBEAN	£189

ALL EUROPEAN/WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS ALSO CAR HIRE/INSURANCE

01476 592095

EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE

Alicante	fr £69	U.S.A	£165
Faro	£59	Australia	£525
Canaries	£95	Israel	£159
Malaga	£65	Malta	£95
Greece	£125	Cyprus	£109
Palma	£95	Turkey	£109

Retail agents for ATOL holders

01273 700737

GERMANY Daily low cost flights and hotel accomodation. All major cc. German Travel Centre 0181 429 2900. ABTA 90685 ATOL 2977 IATA.

COSTCUTTERS on flights & hols to Europe, USA & most destinations. Diplomat Travel Services Ltd: 0171-730 2201. ABTA 25703 IATA/ATOL 1355.

Jetworld

CHEAPEST FARES AVAILABLE

SPAIN	fr 59	CAIRO	fr 219
FARO	69	USA	199
MALTA	79	CARIBBEAN	189
GREECE	79	AUSTRALIA	399
CANARIES	79	S.AFRICA	369
TEL AVIV	129	BANGKOK	309

Best quotes on Car Hire and Accom.

01273 277877

[illegible] OPEN 7 DAYS

MONUMENT TRAVEL

Spain fr	£69	Malta	£89
Canaries	£79	U.S.A.	£169
Greece	£99	Canada	£189
Portugal	£69	Caribbean	£209
Turkey	£99	Australia	£499

01476 404747

Retail agent for ATOL holders AETA W0514

AIRLINK

Worldwide

Discount fares to all destinations

Prices from

ALICANTE	59	ISRAEL	99
MALAGA	59	TUNISIA	129
FARO	59	CYPRUS	129
IBIZA	65	ORLANDO	149
MAHON	69	CANADA	169
TENERIFE	79	SINGAPORE	199
LANZAROTE	79	HONG KONG	299
GREECE	89	S.AFRICA	299
TURKEY	89	AUSTRALIA	399

Car Hire Insurance & Accommodation

0171-713-7770

Open 7 Days

JETLINE

Discounted fares to all destinations

SPAIN	fr 59	USA	fr 169
PORTUGAL	79	CARIBBEAN	209
ISRAEL	99	S. AFRICA	339
GREECE	99	CANADA	179
TURKEY	99	INDIA	399
CYPRUS	149	FAR EAST	299
ARABIA	259	AUSTRALIA	409

Best quotes on Car Hire and Insurance

0171 360 1111

ABTA F0354 OPEN 7 DAYS ATOL 2474

CAPITAL FLIGHTS

Open Daily till late

Malaga	fr £69	Turkey	£99
Alicante	£69	Cyprus	£99
Faro	£69	Malta	£95
Canaries	£99	Orlando	£169
Palma	£99	New York	£169
Greece	£129	Australia	£565

World fares available at discount. Car hire, Hotels and Insurance

0171 209 4000.

ABTA 69508 Retail agents for ATOL holders

FLIGHTSEATS

Inexpensive Car Hire Available
Retail agents for ATOL holders. ABTA C8207
ABTA members for 18 years

Alicante	£59	Dalaman	£89
Malaga	£59	Malta	£89
Faro	£59	Greece &	
Palma	£59	Isles	£89
Mahon/Ibiza	£69	Geneva	£89
Tenerife	£79	Israel	£129
Lanzarote	£79	Orlando	£169
Funchal	£89	Canada	£229

0990 239904

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANIMALS IN NEED

Please help us give compassionate care to abused and abandoned cats and dogs and those whose owners have died or are seriously ill. Our sanctuary provides daily forest walks for dogs, also a neutering service in the poorer city areas. We spay not slay.

Donations to:
WOODSIDE ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST,
Elburton, Plymouth PL7 5ED
(Reg Charity No 298789).

LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
P A BARNES (LIFE AND PENSIONS) LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 20th March 1997.

M.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator

IN THE MATTER OF MTI HOLDINGS (UK) LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Registered number 2048859
Nature of business - Holding Company
Trade classification 38
Administration order made 19 March 1997
Malcolm Cohen (6825/01)
Anthony Peter Supperstone (2703/01)
Joint administrators

LEGAL NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The William Sutton Trust
Scheme varying
Reference: HH/15047/CD(T)

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Sutton Court, Tring, Herts, HP23 5BB or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL quoting the reference above.

IN THE MATTER OF MTI TRADING SYSTEMS LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Registered number 2489008
Nature of business Banking Trading Software
Trade classification 36
Administration order made 19 March 1997
Malcolm Cohen (6825/01)
Anthony Peter Supperstone (2703/01)
Joint administrators

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
METROPOLITAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION LIMITED
REGISTERED NUMBER: 1965997

Notice is hereby given that on 27 March 1997, Anthony William Brierley and Robert Caven of Arthur Andersen, PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of the above company by Guinness Mahon & Co Limited under the powers conferred in a debenture dated 26 March 1992 containing a floating charge over the assets and undertakings of the company.

Dated this 1st day of April 1997
AW BRIERLEY and R CAVEN, Joint Administrative Receivers

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-680 6878 OR FAX: 0171-481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS

need holidays, so do their families. Before planning your own holidays this year, please spare more than a thought for those children who without your help will never get away at all.

Donations urgently needed by
The British Kidney Patient Association,
Bordon, Hants, GU35 9JZ.

Regd. Charity No. 270288

B.K.P.A.

JACKIE Alyson Smith, I love you with all my heart, Now the world knows. D.L.

A LEGACY MEANS A LOT TO THE LIMBLESS

Help us help the limbless.
Please make a donation now and a legacy later to ensure we can continue our vital work. We promise not a penny will be wasted.

Enquiries to: DPT TTC
British Limbless
Ex-Servicemen's Association,
185 High Road, Chadwell Heath,
Essex RM6 6NA.

Charity Reg No. 207671

ON THIS DAY

April 4, 1932

Edward Marjoribanks, MP, by his personality and his intellectual gifts, had already made his mark in public life and great things were predicted for him. The East Sussex Coroner recorded a verdict of "suicide while not of sound mind".

M.P. FOUND SHOT DEAD

MR EDWARD MARJORIBANKS

Mr Edward Marjoribanks, MP, for Eastbourne, who was 32 years of age, was found shot dead on Saturday night in the billiard room at the residence of his stepfather, Lord Hailsham, at Carter's Corner Place, Hailsham, Sussex, where he was spending the weekend.

Mr Marjoribanks was found by Lord Hailsham lying partly across a chair with a gunshot wound in his chest. Near the body was a double-barrelled sporting gun. Adjoining the billiard room is a small gun room, and marks on the floor and walls indicate that Mr. Marjoribanks was standing in the gun-room when the gun was fired. It is believed that he fell to the floor, but staggered or crawled through the open doorway into the billiard room and collapsed across the chair. Only one barrel of the gun had been discharged.

Mr. John Slater, chairman of the Eastbourne Conservative Association, stated on Saturday night that he saw Mr. Marjoribanks on Thursday. He said:— "He was very ill. He was in bed at his residence in Victoria-square, but he had a long chat to me about his work. He had been over-taxing his energies with his political and literary and legal activities. He was working at great pressure on his life of Lord Carson. I was very worried about him, because he complained that he had not had a good night's sleep for many days. After I had seen him he came down to Hailsham for a rest."

An inquest will be held at 2.30 this afternoon at Lord Hailsham's house. The funeral will be at Hurstmonceux tomorrow at noon, and there will be a service at Eastbourne at the same hour.

Sir John Simon paid the following tribute to Mr. Marjoribanks:- "This sudden end to a career of so much brilliance and promise touches all his friends most deeply. I have known Edward Marjoribanks ever since he was an undergraduate, and took the liveliest interest in his progress in public life. Had he lived he would have attained a high place, for he combined courage and sincerity with charm of manner in a way which marked him out for great things."

The death of Mr. Marjoribanks creates a vacancy in the Parliamentary representation of the Eastbourne Division, for which he had sat since 1929. The figures at the last election were:-

E. Marjoribanks (U)	31,240
A. J. Marshall (Lab)	3,379
Unionist majority	25,861

THE PLIGHT OF CYPRUS

FROM OUR NICOSIA CORRESPONDENT

Cyprus has had no rain since the slight fall mentioned in *The Times* of February 29, and the position is again critical. The peasants are without food or money, and many families are starving. The barley crop failed completely; only a miracle can now save the wheat; animals normally worth £45 and £50 are being sold for £5; thousands of sheep and lambs have died from starvation; trade is at a standstill; there are large numbers of unemployed; and the price of straw — the only available food for animals — has risen about 3,000 per cent.

THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY APRIL 4 1997

NEWS

Blair places his hopes on caution

■ Tony Blair set his sights on two terms of office as he offered Britain a fresh start and invited the country to judge his performance in government severely.

Labour would "blow its place in history" if it betrayed the trust of the British people at the general election and afterwards, he said when he unveiled the Labour Party's manifesto........ **Page 1**

Labour backtracks on hunting

■ The Labour Party has backed away from its long-standing commitment to give parliamentary time to legislation banning fox-hunting. A compromise reached by party leaders means one of the countryside's oldest pursuits will be able to continue for some time to come........ **Page 1**

Election 97, pages 7-15. Labour manifesto, pages 35-38

Motorway bombs

Two bombs were found under the M6 near Birmingham as the IRA brought chaos to the busiest section of road in Europe...... **Page 1**

Road rage

A professor has concluded that incidents in which drivers attacked each other over traffic misdemeanours were more likely to involve the middle classes than any other violent crime..... **Page 1**

Strike over gun boys

Teachers were considering industrial action after their school was ordered to take back two boys caught with an air pistol and ammunition........ **Page 2**

Hate campaign

A mother of five was in jail after being convicted of waging a hate campaign against a former council official who made remarks about her family on a television programme........ **Page 2**

£750m bank thief

Abbas Gokal, the shipping mogul convicted of stealing £750 million from customers of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, spent the money on a lavish lifestyle........ **Page 3**

Tunnel safety

Eurotunnel agreed to introduce new procedures including smokehoods for freight passengers, after admitting that there had been "delays" in tackling the Channel Tunnel fire........ **Page 4**

Fox hoax

A scheme to compensate hill farmers for lambs killed by foxes has been abandoned after hoax calls sent animal welfare workers driving thousands of miles to bogus addresses........ **Page 6**

TV violence

Television shows such as *Blind Date* and *Gladiators* pander to a public desire for real, rather than fictional, sex and violence, said a criminologist........ **Page 6**

Clinton cash crisis

Hundreds of pages of confidential White House documents reveal that President Clinton was so obsessed with the need to raise cash to campaign for re-election that he buried himself in the trivia of fundraising........ **Page 16**

Arafat fund inquiry

Israel's transfer of almost £100 million in tax revenue to a secret bank account under the control of Yassir Arafat, is being investigated by the IMF........ **Page 16**

Kohl fights on

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has announced that he intends to stand for re-election next year after months of speculation that he was suffering from failing health........ **Page 17**

Medieval Russia

Pagan superstitions and medieval notions of justice still hold sway among many of Russia's peasants........ **Page 17**

On the trail of Shelley's passion

■ Devon hoteliers are locked in dispute over which inn played host to Percy Shelley and Harriet Westbrook on their honeymoon in 1812. Both the Rising Sun and Shelley's Cottage Hotel claim that the poet began his brief marriage to the 16-year-old Harriet in their rooms. Both, it appears, are wrong; Shelley honeymooned 600 miles away, in Edinburgh........ **Page 3**

PA PHOTOS

Tony Blair signs copies of the Labour manifesto for eager shoppers in a west London shopping centre yesterday. Page 1

BUSINESS

Modern scouts: British Aerospace and Lockheed Martin of America joined forces to compete for the $5 billion contract for battlefield reconnaissance vehicles, described as the modern equivalent of the Cavalry's Indian scout........ **Page 25**

Job losses: United Assurance is planning to shed 2,200 jobs, more than a third of its workforce, in the wake of its £1.4 billion merger with Refuge Assurance........ **Page 25**

More leisure: Rank Group is to spend £1.5 billion over the next five year, creating around 7,500 jobs, as it builds up its British leisure interests........ **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 22 to 4214.6. Sterling fell to 98.3 after falls from $1.6447 to $1.6415 and DM2.7475 to DM2.7387.... **Page 28**

SPORT

Racing: Master Oats, the 1995 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, will run in the Grand National on Saturday, carrying the top weight of 11st 10lb, over a stone more than any other horse........ **Page 48**

Football: Poland's draw against Italy has left England in control of their own destiny in attempting to qualify for the World Cup finals in France next year........ **Page 48**

Tennis: Briatin's resurgence faces a stern test as a team denuded of its top players, Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, takes on Zimbabwe in the Davis Cup....... **Page 48**

Cricket: Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, hit back at criticisms by the editor of *Wisden* in the 1997 edition........ **Page 48**

ARTS

Girls' stuff: Luscious Jackson are the sound of New York in all its cross-cultural glory. Caitlin Moran talks to the four girls in the band about being honest........ **Page 32**

Boys' own: Supergrass are back, and giving the fans a bit of a slap around the face with a heavyweight new sound. With the jokers in the Britpop pack........ **Page 33**

Street cred: Last summer 130 residents of a multiracial Birmingham housing estate were persuaded to perform *Macbeth* for a television documentary. How did they like it?........ **Page 34**

Big Ben: Ben Elton has come far as a dramatist since his *Gasping* and *Poor Cow*, says Benedict Nightingale, who reviews his stimulating play, *Popcorn*........ **Page 34**

FEATURES

Neighbours: How will the people who live in the same London street as the Labour leader Tony Blair and his family vote in the general election? Julian Kossoff tries to find out........ **Page 18**

Valerie Grove: "There is a lot of snobbery in acting, and being called Rupert Graves doesn't hurt," says the star of *Hurlyburly* at the Old Vic........ **Page 19**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ MAGAZINE
Peter Howson: the war artist who is trying to make peace after going through hell

■ WEEKEND
Business deals on the 19th hole are old hat. But now female wheeler dealers are teeing off

EDUCATION

Saving fine schools: Labour must remember *Diversity and Excellence* and not be tempted to abolish the grant-maintained system, says Bob Balchin........ **Page 39**

Coming champions: Daniel Rosenthal reports on an education pack for schools that could produce the next generation of British Oscar winners........ **Page 40**

Why boys fail: Research suggests that the gender gap is widening because of the way reading skills are taught early on........ **Page 40**

THE PAPERS

Despite President Yeltsin's announcement of a qualitatively different stage in the process of integrating Russia and Belarus, it is hard to summon up much enthusiasm for the "union" accord between the two countries that was signed on Wednesday

— *Moscow Times*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: A Manchester hotel is the site for a new period drama. *The Grand* (ITV, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond on Channel 5's flamboyant chef........ **Page 47**

OPINION

Labour's day

It is understandable that Mr Blair should be cautious about putting down concrete proposals which will create some financial losers. But he is far ahead in the polls; he ought to feel safe........ **Page 21**

Champion of EMU

The decision by Helmut Kohl to stand again as Chancellor of Germany closes off one of the easiest escape routes for British policy towards Europe — the possibility that Germany would lose interest in a single currency........ **Page 21**

In the blood

Hereditary peers may be an endangered species if Labour is elected. The hereditary Member of Parliament stands ready and willing to take their place........ **Page 21**

COLUMNS

MATTHEW PARRIS

Consciously in some cases, unconsciously in others, nobody is looking for a stick with which to beat the Labour Party, though plenty of sticks lie around us. Are we in the media scared of ourselves? Are we ashamed of our power, embarrassed by influence?........ **Page 20**

TESSA BLACKSTONE

The Government cannot complain if the voters do not give it credit. No one can recall Major, Clarke and Heseltine campaigning in 1992, in the midst of recession, on the slogan *"It's all our fault"*....... **Page 20**

LYNNE TRUSS

Callous partisanship is clearly what football is all about, which is why fans are so frightening. You can measure your fanaticism by the extent to which the opposing side can suffer injury and ignominy without you caring...... **Page 46**

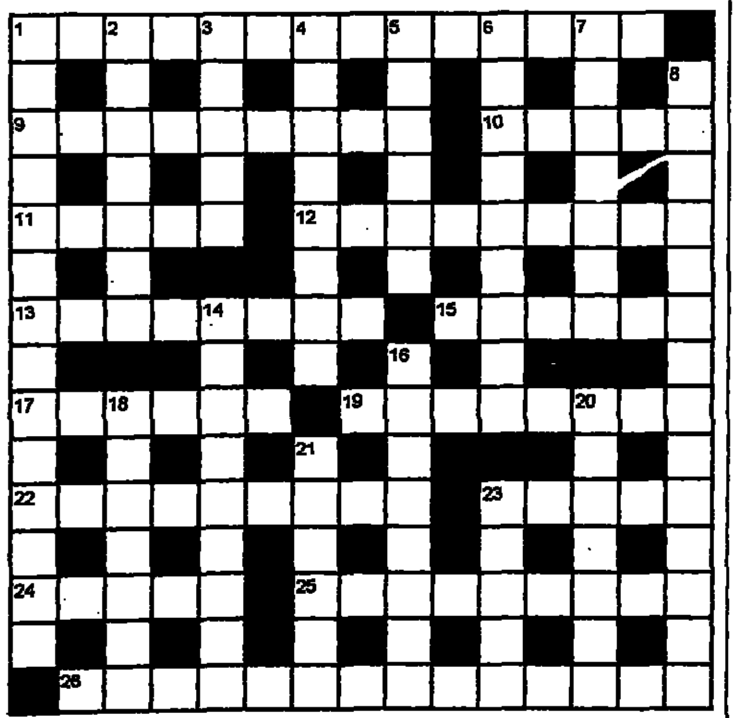
OBITUARIES

U. Alexis Johnson, US diplomat; **Dr Anthony Hopkins**, of the Royal College of Physicians; **Agnes Duncan**, choral conductor....... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Election and race; railways; patients's rights; Papua New Guinea; public theatres and private pockets; London Aquarium........ **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,445



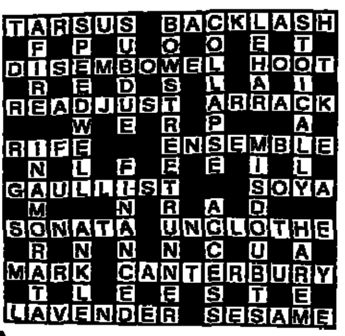
ACROSS

1 Noble's song performed in church for some bishops (5,9).
9 Sort of sketch it hurts to put under the hammer (9).
10 Disturbance stopped early by copper, an unusual type (5).
11 It could be hard to trim (5).
12 Marsupial's surprised expression when caught by robber (9).
13 Steps taken to honour our star (3-5).
15 Lose courage, on the carpet (6).
17 Tool to get rid of what's frozen round front of vehicle (6).
19 Crustacean raw, without salt (8).
22 Do Russian reforms show organisations unable to adapt? (9).
23 Wipe the floor with flash young boxer, perhaps (3,2).
24 Agreed pronouncement on the radio (5).
25 Original type of popular star reaching high point (9).
26 Her lover was booked and taken to court (4,10).

DOWN

1 Open a mobile cafe and embarrass one's friends? (3,3,4,4).
2 Suddenly attack with bullet to leg (5,2).
3 Poor bears rattled by intimidating person (5).
4 Contribute to defence that's thrown out again by recorder (8).
5 Drawing a line with this decision (6).
6 Direction artist follows, we hear, in general (9).
7 Whence number left on aeroplanes? (7).
8 Port and non-alcoholic drink politicians linked in tax protest (6,3,5)
14 Inessential equipment for criminal's sidekick (9).
16 Composer adding note to sacred music — clear? (8).
18 House containing a new orchid (7).
20 Topical changes in American political situation (7).
21 Home erected in great European city (6).
23 E.g. Western manoeuvre to capture island (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,444



Times Two Crossword, page 48

INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions	**0336 444 910**
UK Roads - All regions	**0336 401 410**
Inside M25	0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads	0336 401 747
National Motorways	0336 401 748
Continental Europe	0336 401 910
Channel crossing	0336 401 388
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports	0336 407 505

Weather by Fax The Met. Office

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax

West Country	416 334	Scotland	416 340
Wales	416 335	N. Ireland	416 341
Midlands	416 336	London	416 342
East Anglia	416 337	National Satellite Weather picture	416 397
N.West	416 338		
N. East	416 339		

Metfax Marine Inshore leisure forecasts	416 398

World City Weather The Met. Office

153 destinations world wide
6 day forecast

by **Phone** dial	0336 411216
by **Fax** (index page)	0336 416333

Motoring

Europe Country by Country	0336 401 885
European fuel costs	0336 401 886
French Motorways	0336 401 887
Seaport information	0336 401 882
Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars	0336 416 399

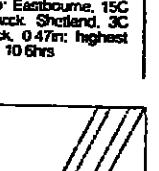
Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to poll receive mode

AA Developments Ltd.
Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY

Calls are charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Eastbourne, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Lerwick, 0.47in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 10.6hrs



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** most of England and Wales should be dry with bright or sunny spells, especially in the morning. Northern England will become cloudy during the morning, with some rain in the afternoon and evening. Any showers in eastern Scotland will soon die out. Thickening cloud will spread rain across Northern Ireland during the morning and all of Scotland in the afternoon. Over the higher ground of Scotland, there will be a period of sleet and snow; windy in places.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Channel Isles:** dry with bright or sunny spells, becoming cloudy in evening. Winds northwesterly, moderate, turning westerly later. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **E Midlands, W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, N Wales:** mainly dry and bright, sunshine at first. Cloudy later. Winds northwesterly, light to moderate, swinging west to southwesterly. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **E England, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Moray Firth:** dry with bright or sunny spells at first. Becoming cloudy, rain in afternoon and evening. Winds west to northwesterly, light, swinging west to southwesterly, fresh. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny spells and showers at first, becoming cloudy later with rain in evening. Winds northwesterly, fresh to strong, swinging southeasterly later. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** dry at first, cloud thickening with outbreaks of rain spreading from west in morning. Winds light and variable, becoming southerly, fresh to strong, later southwesterly. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Central Highlands, NE Scotland:** dry with bright or sunny spells at first. Becoming cloudy with outbreaks of rain; sleet or snow on high ground. Winds west to northwesterly, light, swinging west to southwesterly, increasing to fresh. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** cloud and rain in North, moving south.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

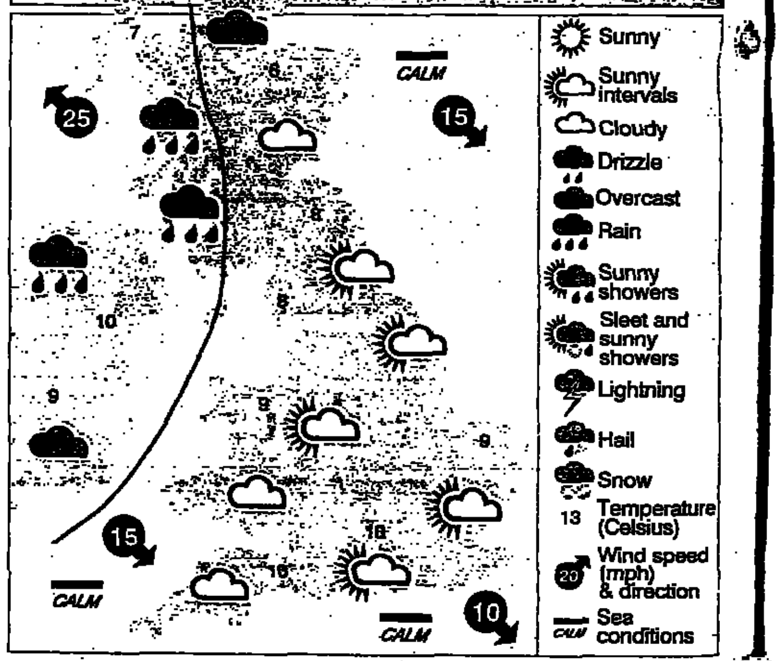
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	10.4	0.18	8	46	h
Anglesey	X				
Aspatria	7.3	0.05	10	50	h
Aviemore	7.0	0.15	7	45	sl
Belfast	5.4	0.04	9	48	h
Birmingham	4.2	0.01	11	52	sh
Bognor R	9.0	-	15	59	s
Bournem'th	X				
Bristol	7.8	-	13	55	s
Buxton	4.4	0.06	7	45	s
Cardiff	6.9	0.01	12	54	s
Clacton	6.0	-	12	54	s
Colwyn Bay	7.1	0.01	10	50	s
Cromer	5.4	0.01	11	52	s
Eastbourne	3.6	-	15	59	b
Edinburgh	8.8	0.02	10	50	s
Eskdalemuir	6.2	0.19	7	45	h
Exmouth	7.5	-	13	55	s
Falmouth	10.6	-	13	55	s
Fishguard	2.8	0.01	11	52	b
Folkestone	6.6	-	14	57	b
Glasgow	8.6	0.09	9	48	sh
Guernsey	9.3	0.01	14	57	s
Hastings	6.6	-	15	59	s
Hayling I	9.0	-	15	59	s
Herne Bay	5.7	-	13	65	b
Hove	9.9	-	12	54	s
Hunstanton	X	0.01	11	52	s
Isle of Man	7.0	0.01	10	50	s
Jersey	10.0	-	14	57	s
Kinloss	8.2	0.05	7	45	sn
Leeds	5.7	0.01	11	52	sh
Lerwick	7.1	0.47	3	37	sn
Leuchars	X				
Littlehmptn	5.9	-	15	59	b
London	3.3	-	14	57	b
Lowestoft	6.5	0.02	13	65	sh
Manchester	5.7	0.03	10	50	r
Margate	6.0	-	13	55	b
Morecambe	7.0	0.02	9	48	s
Newcastle	7.5	0.01	11	52	s
Norwich	4.8	0.01	13	55	sh
Oxford	7.6	-	14	57	s
Penzance	X	-	15	59	s
Prestatyn	X	0.05	10	50	sh
Ross-o-wye	7.2	-	13	65	s
Ryde	8.2	-	14	57	s
Salcombe	9.8	-	15	59	s
Sandown	8.9	-	15	59	s
Sauntn Snd	6.4	-	12	54	s
Scarboro'	8.4	0.01	10	50	s
Shanklin	9.8	-	14	57	s
Shrewsbury	6.6	0.01	11	52	r
Skegness	5.8	0.01	12	54	sh
Southport	7.3	0.01	10	50	s
Stornoway	4.7	0.22	7	45	h
Swanage	8.7	-	15	59	s
Teignmouth	8.7	-	14	57	s
Tenby	4.9	0.01	13	55	s
Tiree	7.4	0.13	8	46	sh
Torquay	9.6	-	14	57	s
Ventnor	10.5	-	15	59	s
West-s-mare	6.5	-	13	55	s
Weymouth	9.0	-	15	59	s

ABROAD

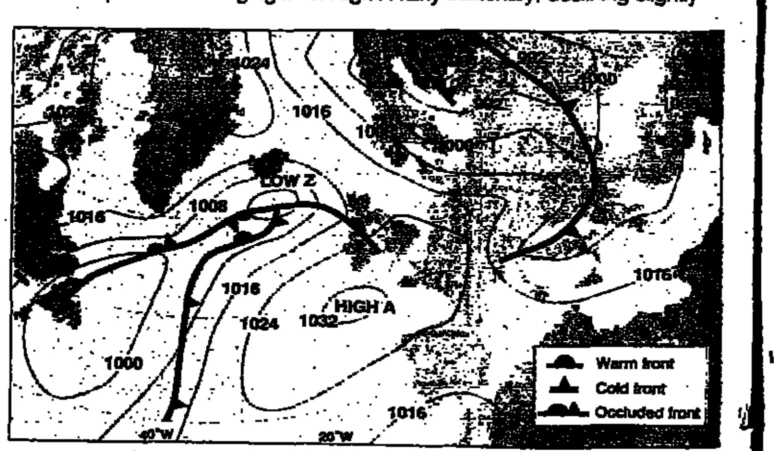
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63	s	Corfu	15	59	s	Majorca	22	72	s	Rome	16	61	c
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	13	55	f	Malaga	18	64	s	S Fr'isco	16	61	s
Alex'dria	20	68	s	Dublin	13	55	c	Malta	13	55	f	S Paulo	25	77	f
Algiers	19	66	s	Dubrovnik	13	55	f	Melb'rne	21	70	f	Salzburg	16	61	s
Amst'dm	12	54	f	Faro	19	66	s	Mexico C	23	73	s	Santiago	26	79	s
Athens	15	59	f	Florence	18	64	f	Miami	24	75	s	Seoul	12	54	c
B Aires	X			Frankfurt	17	63	s	Milan	20	68	s	Sing'por	26	79	r
Bahrain	25	77	s	Funchal	19	66	f	Montreal	7	45	s	St'kholm	11	52	f
Bangkok	34	93	f	Geneva	16	61	s	Moscow	6	43	X	Strasb'rg	19	66	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	19	66	f	Munich	18	64	s	Sydney	27	81	s
Barcelona	20	68	s	Helsinki	7	45	s	N Delhi	28	82	s	Tangier	19	66	s
Beirut	20	68	f	Hong K	26	79	f	N York	14	57	s	Tel Aviv	22	72	f
Belgrade	7	45	r	Innsbrck	15	59	s	Nairobi	28	82	c	Tenerife	23	73	f
Berlin	12	54	c	Istanbul	11	52	s	Naples	15	59	f	Tokyo	15	59	f
Bermuda	15	59	r	Jeddah	35	95	s	Nice	17	63	s	Toronto	15	59	s
Biarritz	14	57	s	Jo'burg	15	59	c	Oslo	11	52	f	Tunis	11	52	c
Borde'x	21	70	s	L Angels	17	63	s	Paris	18	64	s	Valencia	21	70	s
Brussels	14	57	s	L Palmas	20	68	s	Peking	11	52	f	Vanc'ver	9	48	s
Budapst	18	64	f	Le Tquet	13	55	s	Perth	21	70	s	Venice	20	68	s
Cairo	23	73	f	Lisbon	18	64	s	Prague	14	57	s	Vienna	17	63	s
Cape Tn	22	72	s	Locarno	18	64	s	Reykjavik	-2	28	s	Warsaw	12	54	c
Ch'church	15	59	X	Luxembg	17	63	s	Rhodes	10	50	r	Wash'ton	16	61	s
Chicago	18	64	s	Luxor	31	88	f	Rio de J	27	81	f	Wel'ngton	14	57	X
Cologne	15	59	s	Madrid	20	68	s	Riyadh	30	86	s	Zurich	16	61	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: Low Z will move east, then southeast, central pressure changing little. High A fairly stationary, declining slightly



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	-	-	12.03	6.6
Aberdeen	11.37	3.8	-	-
Avonmouth	05.04	11.7	17.40	12.0
Belfast	09.04	3.2	21.47	3.2
Cardiff	04.50	10.9	17.26	11.2
Devonport	03.28	4.8	16.15	4.9
Dover	09.15	6.0	21.44	6.2
Dublin (N Wall)	09.49	3.9	22.32	4.0
Falmouth	02.59	4.6	15.46	4.7
Greenock	10.45	3.1	23.06	3.0
Harwich	09.55	3.7	22.19	3.6
Holyhead	08.32	5.1	21.12	5.2
Hull (Albert D)	04.30	7.8	16.42	7.9
Ilfracombe	04.00	8.1	16.34	8.3
King's Lynn	04.38	5.7	16.48	6.0
Leith	00.31	4.9	12.50	5.0
Liverpool	09.22	8.8	21.59	8.7
Lowestoft	07.53	2.3	19.45	2.3
Margate	10.14	4.3	22.28	4.4
Milford Haven	04.15	6.0	16.49	6.1
Newquay	03.13	6.1	15.45	6.2
Oban	04.18	3.5	16.51	3.3
Penzance	02.38	4.9	15.13	4.9
Portland	04.36	1.5	17.21	1.6
Portsmouth	09.40	4.2	22.15	4.5
Shoreham	09.24	5.6	21.59	5.9
Southampton	08.55	4.1	21.30	4.3
Swansea	04.20	8.5	16.55	8.7
Tees	01.41	4.8	13.56	4.9
Walton-on-N	09.54	3.9	22.17	3.8

All times GMT Heights in metres

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.29 am
Sun sets: 7.39 pm
Moon sets 3.58 pm
Moon rises 5.00 am

London 7.39 pm to 6.27 am
Bristol 7.49 pm to 6.37 am
Edinburgh 7.57 pm to 6.33 am
Manchester 7.50 pm to 6.33 am
Penzance 7.59 pm to 6.50 am

New moon April 7

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1997. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kirkby Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Friday, April 4, 1997. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

هدية من الاهرام